PEOPLE AT WORK:
Small town industry in Saskatchewan

introduction

The direction of modern society is towards centralization and urbanization. The notion that "bigness is best" has been commonly accepted as the organization of the future. This concept has altered our social fabric dramatically and has threatened the existence of many of Saskatchewan's smaller communities.

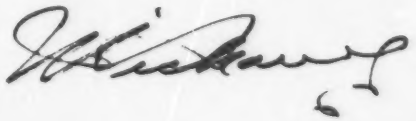
Decentralization is one of the Government of Saskatchewan's key objectives. Therefore we are working to preserve and revitalize these smaller communities.

Many towns and villages have survived the urban shift and are today thriving centers that offer their residents an alternative to the bustle and anonymity of city life.

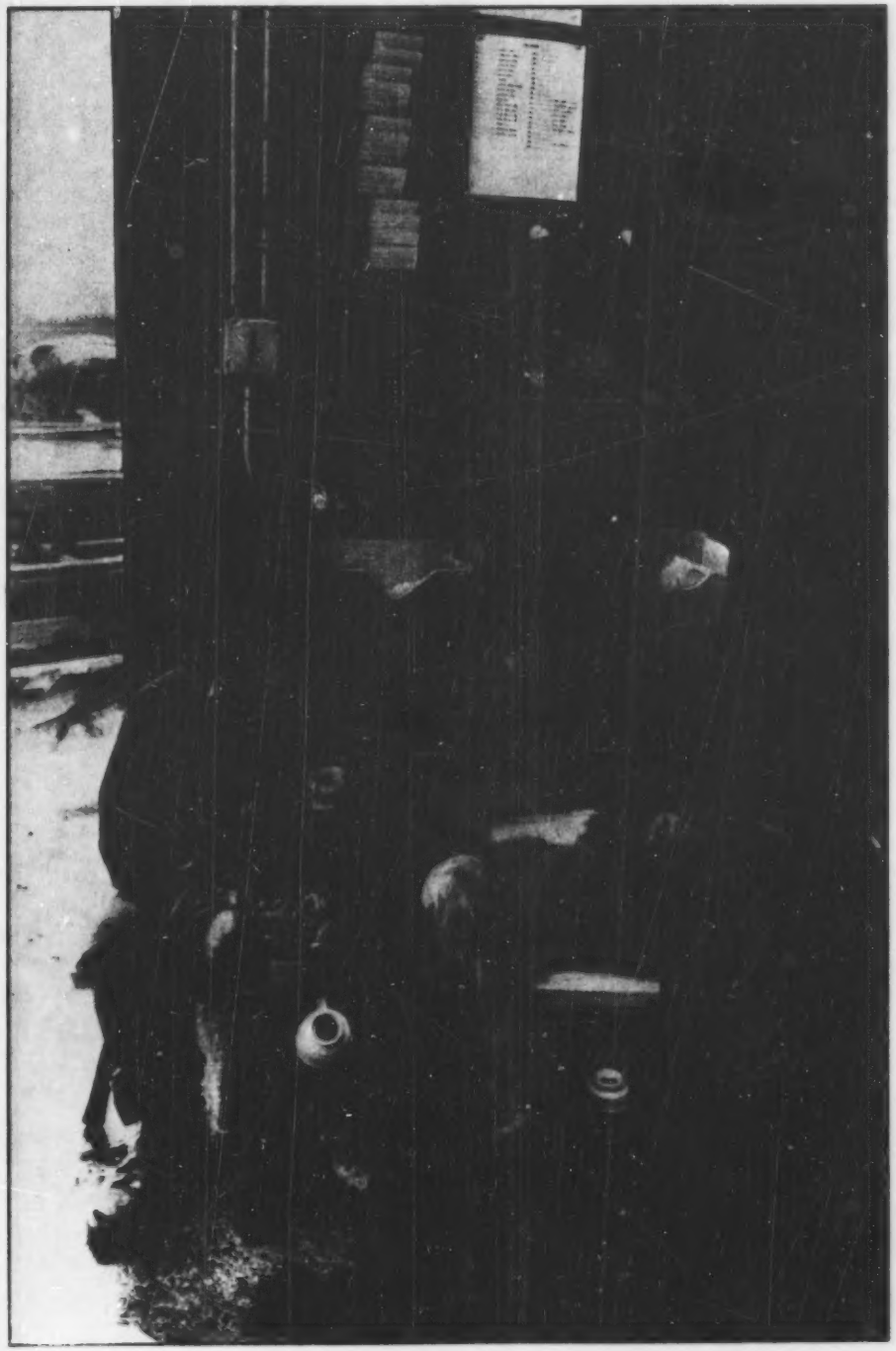
The industries of Saskatchewan's small towns are in part responsible for their economic well being. There is a relationship between the success of a small town industry and the probability of that town staying on the map. Industry provides jobs, and jobs are necessary for the growth of a community. Yet these industries that have helped to keep the small towns alive are often overlooked.

This book, *People at Work*, is a photographic look at some of these industries. It is also a portrait of the men and women that have made the industries what they are.

Some of the companies represented in this book have been around for years, and were developed in response to local needs; others are newer enterprises that manufacture products for export markets; but all are the product of industrious individuals who have one thing in common: love of the small town and rural lifestyle.



Hon. Norman Vickar,
Minister
Saskatchewan Department of
Industry and Commerce.



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Cover photo: Carl Hubbard of Symons Metal Workers Ltd. of Rocanville (see page 24).

Left photo: William Silverfox (left), and Pat Stevenson on their coffee break at Co-op Manufactured Homes Ltd. in Lanigan (see overleaf).

lanigan

The Co-op Manufactured Homes plant in Lanigan had a good first year in 1976: good for the 25 full-time people who work there and good for the 1200 people who live in Lanigan and such nearby communities as Esk, Drake and Guernsey.

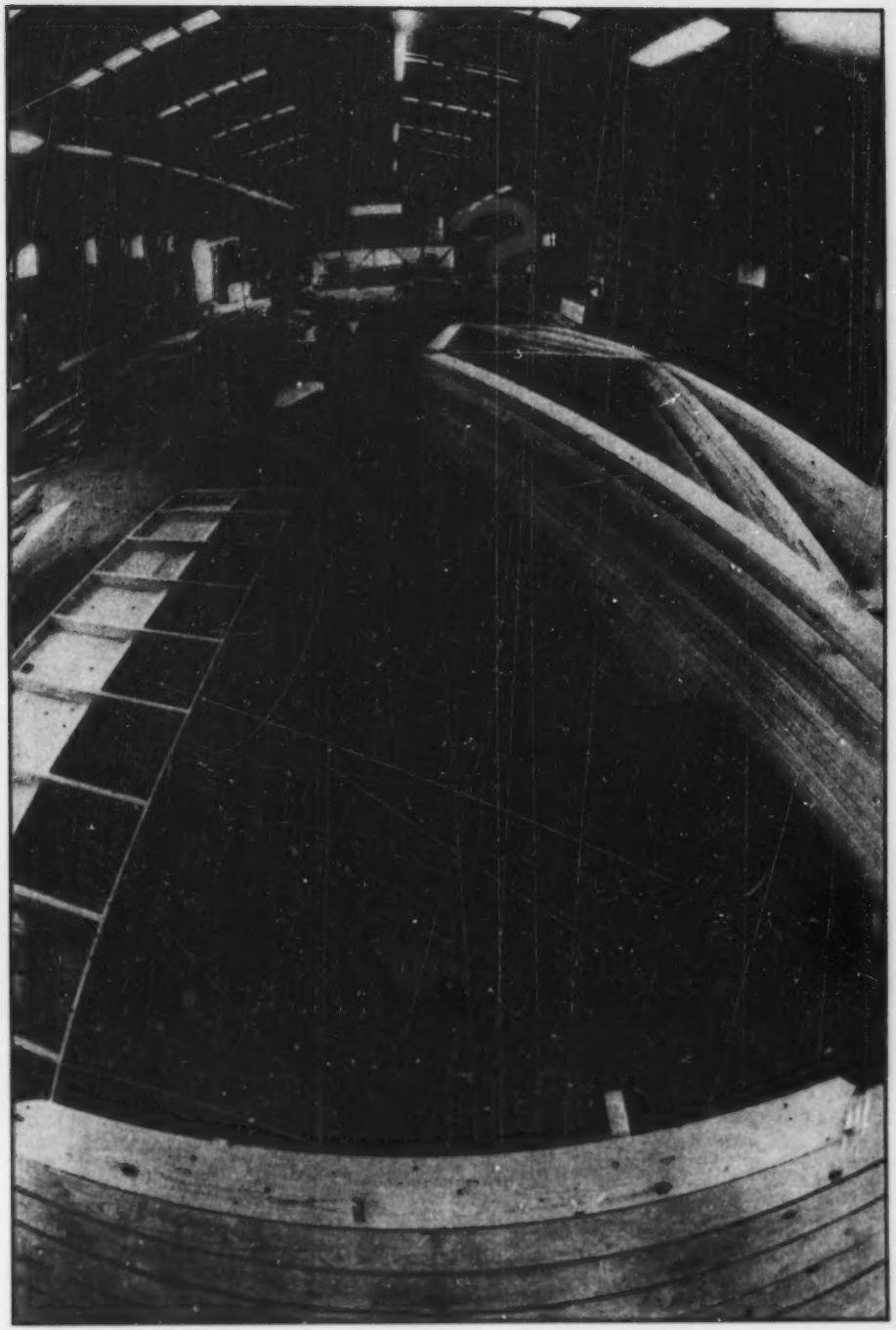
Formerly Fairlane Industries, the plant was purchased from the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO) in 1975 by the Co-operative Retailing System, which stretches from Thunder Bay to the Queen Charlotte Islands. Investment in plant, property, equipment and inventory by the Co-op system amounted to approximately $500,000.

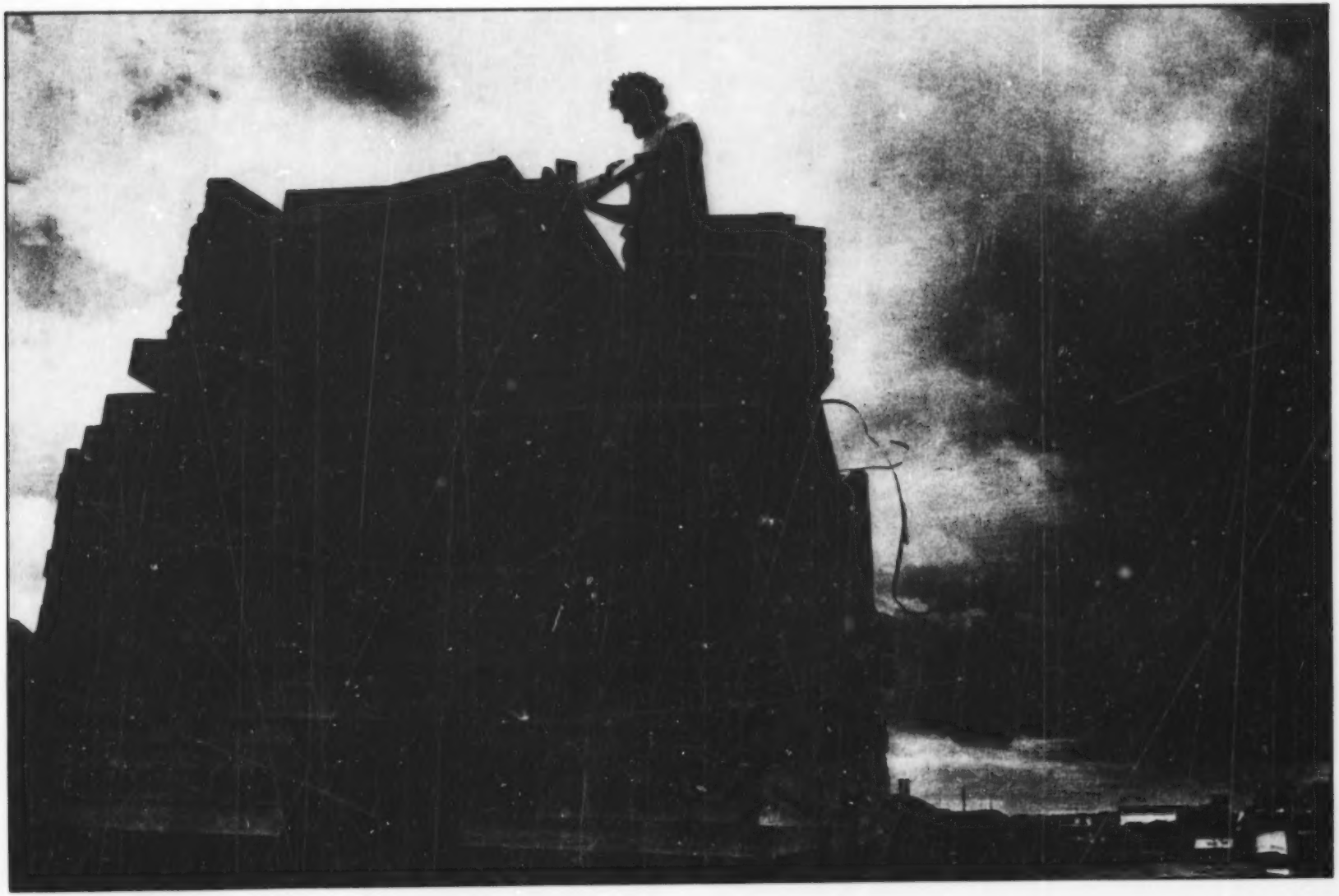
Total sales by the co-op at October 31, 1976 were $1.5 million, compared to the $1.1 million projected at the beginning of the business year. The plant shipped 161 garages and 225 house "shells" (far right photo, with Phillip Turnbull on truck), and exceeded its projected production of 16,000 roof trusses (immediate right), by almost 1,000.

This year, about 85 per cent of the firm's sales were in Saskatchewan, with 10 per cent in Alberta and five per cent in Manitoba. The furthest point the plant shipped its products was to Fort St. John, B.C. The co-op is confident about the future, and has budgeted for a 20 per cent increase in sales for the 1977 business year.

"Shells" constructed at the Lanigan plant are delivered to a large number of the 418 consumer and farm supply co-operatives on the Prairies. These co-ops either have the rest of the construction contracted out or complete the job themselves, depending on their facilities or the availability of labor.

Co-op Manufactured Homes makes about 35 different house plans available to its customers. When the houses leave the plant (by Federated Co-op trucks), the framing components — including the inside and outside walls — have been constructed, along with the trusses — including gable ends and ladders — for the roof system. Customers can order the houses with or without the floor system. There is no mechanical work, insulation or dry walling done.





englefeld

One of the most important industries in Saskatchewan is found in the unlikely setting of Englefeld, a village of scarcely 275 people about 80 miles directly west of Saskatoon.

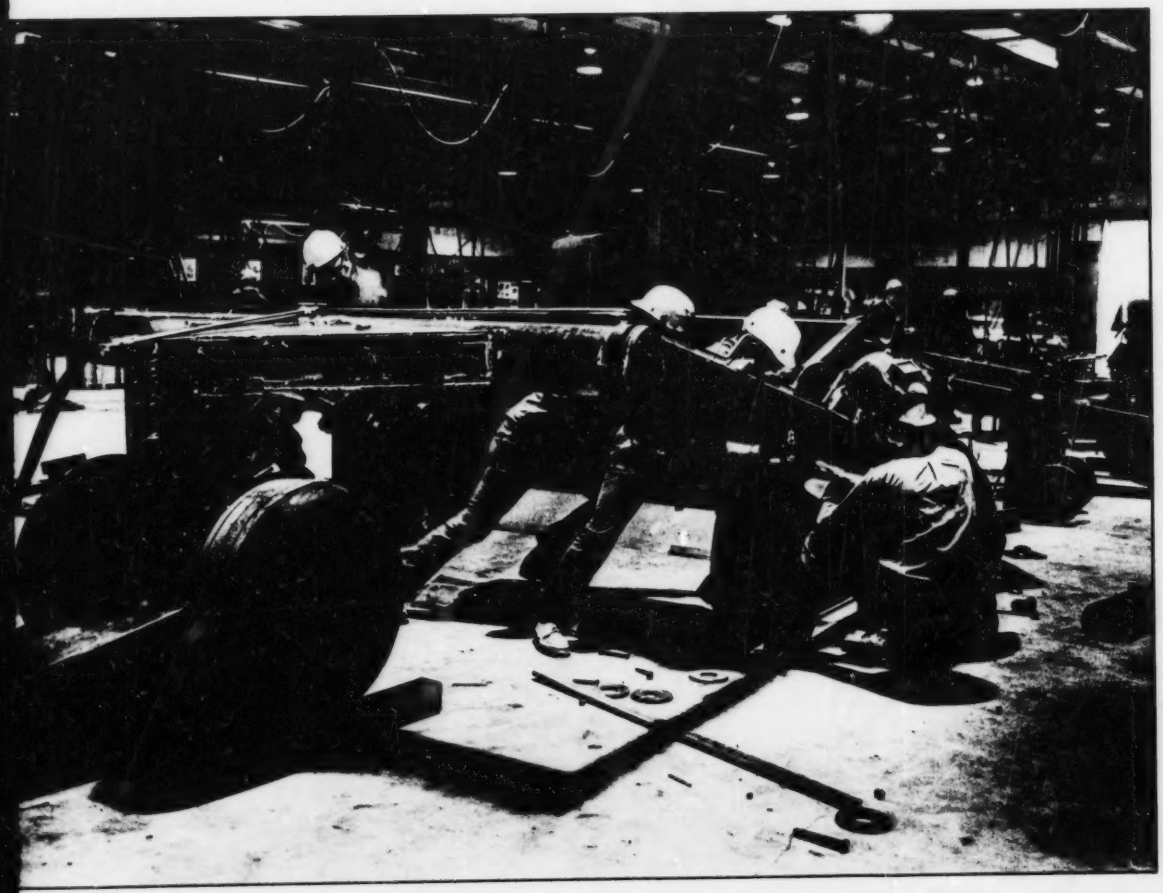
Schulte Industries Ltd., which produces rock pickers, rotary snow plows and small hydraulic scrapers, has been firmly at home in Englefeld since 1964 — so firmly in fact that the company recently (July, 1976) completed a $500,000 expansion. John Schulte, president of the company, was born, raised and groomed for business in the village, and he has never seen the need to move on to the bigger centers of commerce.

Schulte Industries employs 70 people during the peak winter months, and markets its products across Canada, in North and South Dakota, Minnesota, Montana and other parts of the U.S. Recently, the company began developing export markets in Cyprus, Australia and Algeria.

John Schulte started his business in an Englefeld blacksmith shop with his father back in 1932. By 1948, he had made and tested his first rotary snow plow, which became popular enough and marketable enough to sell. From year to year, sales increased on his snow plows, and in 1963 the first Schulte Rockelator Rock Picker was built and tested. The family business was incorporated the following year as Schulte Welding and Machine Ltd. It was renamed Schulte Industries in 1972.

Schulte's latest product (first produced in late 1976; see center photo), is a new, 8-1/2 cubic yard hydraulic earth scraper, the largest agricultural scraper produced in Western Canada. It was an instant success, and the company plans to produce an even larger model in 1977.

Running a turning lathe and cutting sprockets for a rock picker is Paul Boscher (right). The center photograph shows Schulte employees working on the new hydraulic earth scraper. On the far right, two welders are working on the scraper frame.



shellbrook

Beilhartz Meats Ltd. in Shellbrook triples as a retail shop, abattoir and packing outlet, and is known for its tasty, distinctive variety of meats.

Harry Beilhartz (in both photos, right), was only 13 years old when he began work as a butcher's apprentice in his native Shellbrook. His family took over a meat-packing business and restaurant in the town, and Harry and his brother ran the meat-cutting end of things. In 1950, Harry branched off on his own with another partner, and started what is today Beilhartz Meats. He purchased controlling interest in the company from his partner in 1963.

Today, Harry Beilhartz employs 10 full-time people, including Albert Francour (right, trimming meats), and Margo Wason (preparing spiced hamburgers with Harry, far right). Three of the company's employees work full-time in the retail side of the business, with the remainder assigned to butchering, meat-cutting and packaging.

Beilhartz Meats performs like a smaller version of Canada Packers. It slaughters and custom-cuts, packages the regular cuts (steaks, chops, etc.), smokes and cures its own hams and specialty meats, and makes its own sausages (lots and lots of sausages: about 2000 pounds a week, including pepperonis, bolognas, two types of garlic and two summer salamis).

"We try to make our product so it suits most people's tastes," Harry says. His goods go to market in the Shellbrook (pop. 1,200) area, including the town itself and nearby (27 miles away) Prince Albert. Hotels, motels, hospitals and grocery stores are the prime outlets for the products, and Harry has even served the enormous collective appetite at the Prince Albert Pulp Mill, which has roughly 450 employees.

"We intend to stay in Shellbrook," says the master butcher, who plans to expand soon into the wholesale market. "We've established a name here, and here is where we'll stay."

uranium city

Saskatchewan's far north is frontier country — rugged, demanding and beautiful. The summers are short, hot and often harsh. The winters are long, very cold and always harsh.

Despite the climatic extremes, people keep moving to the north, and many stay. They are attracted by many factors: by the rugged beauty perhaps, or the wealth of natural resources, or even the eternal challenge of jousting with Mother Nature. But most of all, the people come for the employment that is provided through Uranium City, one of the principal frontier communities in Canada.

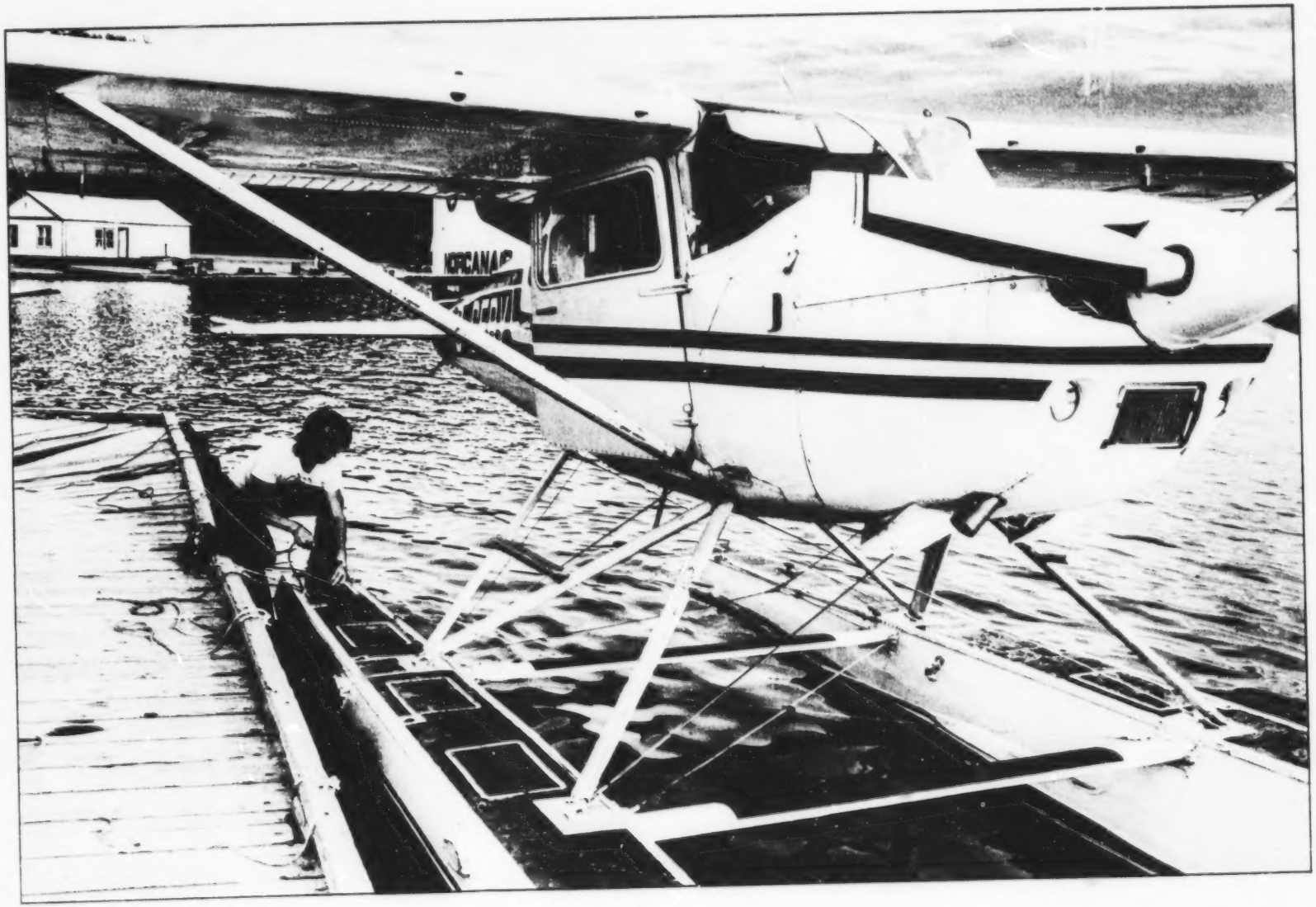
Uranium City stands on the northern edge of Lake Athabasca, near the top of Saskatchewan. About 2,200 people live in the town, which was founded during the uranium boom of the early 1950's.

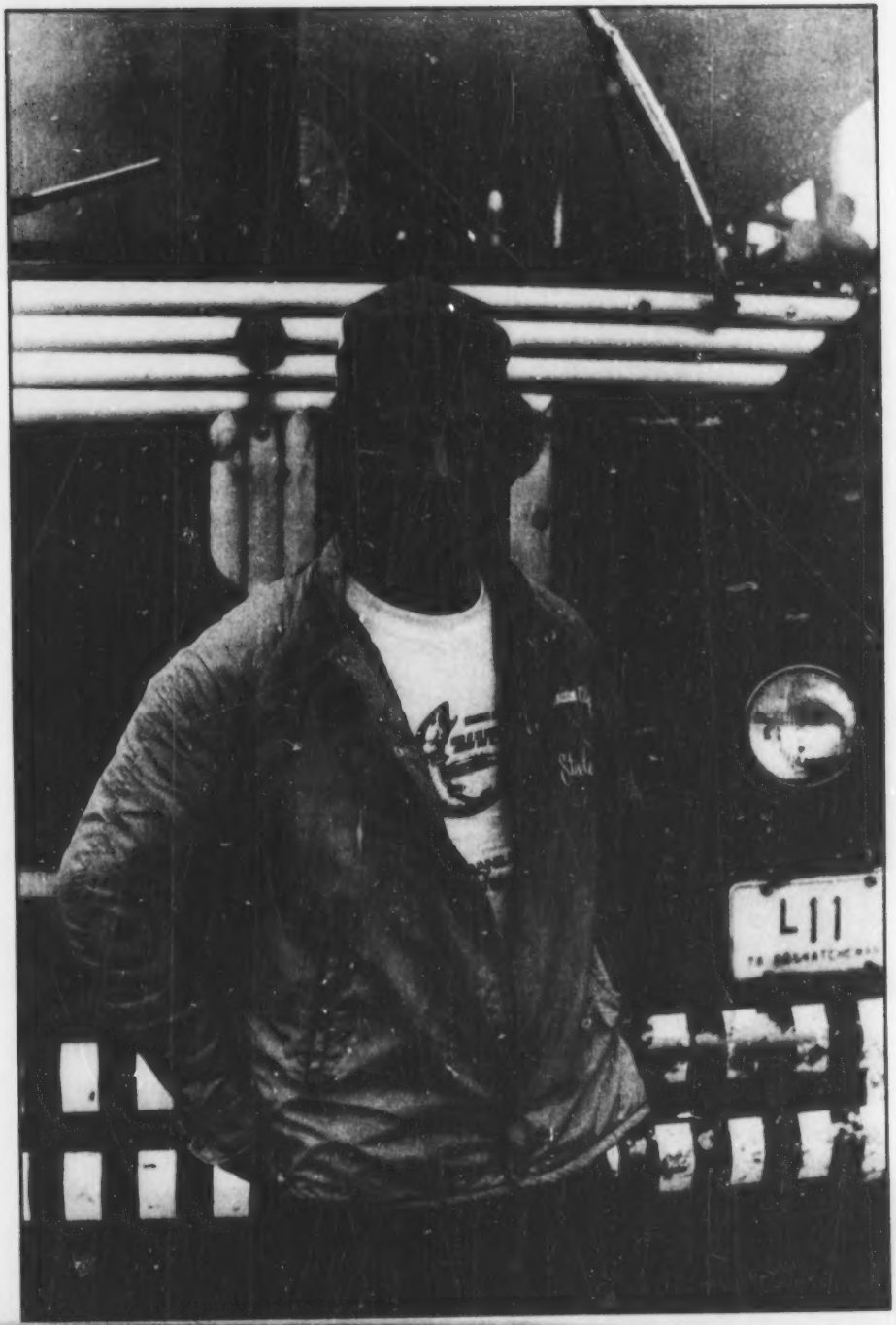
After a period of economic decline from the late 1950's to the early 1970's, Uranium City is now back on the prosperous trail, thanks to a resurgence in the international demand for uranium. Eldorado Nuclear Ltd., by far the largest employer in the area, has both its uranium mine and mill operating at capacity, and the many support industries in the town are in full swing.

One of the most important support industries in Uranium City is transportation, and specifically air travel. The largest airline serving northern Saskatchewan is Norcanair, which has a small float plane base just east of town, where aircraft are serviced and restored to mechanical excellence. Pictured at the base are Don Winter (right), who helps maintain the planes, and Ron Betz (far right), who is securing a plane to a wharf.

Prince Albert-based Norcanair has regularly-scheduled flights between Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, La Ronge and Uranium City. The company also operates air freighters.

Uranium City is accessible only by air or by barge, except for about six weeks when a winter road is opened for traffic across Lake Athabasca. Small bush planes carry a wide range of cargoes, from perishables to prospectors to parts for machinery. The bulk of non-perishable goods are brought to the area by barge, the remainder by air or winter road.

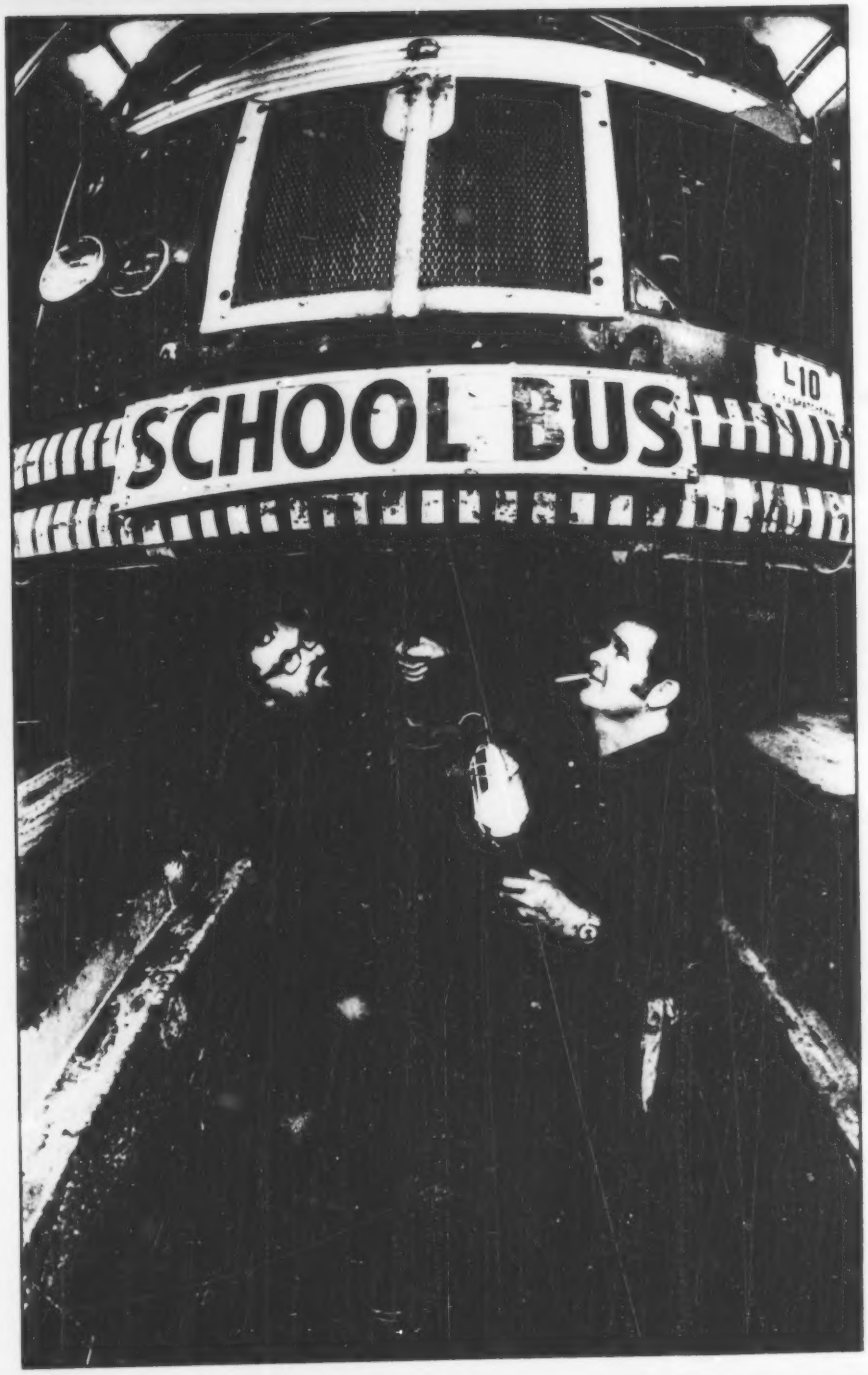




Bruce Hemingson (immediate right), a young Uranium City businessman, owns and operates two transportation companies. One of his firms provides the only bus service in town. It buses students to and from school, and workers between the town and the uranium mine and mill. Bruce's other company transports freight between the town and the community airport, and to and from the barges that dock at Bushell, six miles south-west of Uranium City.

Sitting behind the wheel of one of Bruce's buses is Don Kostur, who also helps maintain the bus fleet. Don and mechanic Jean Fluet are seen (far right), working on another bus inside the company's garage.

Bruce Hemingson keeps all his vehicles in top condition, particularly in winter, when the fierce temperatures in Uranium City can regularly plummet to 30 or 35 degrees below zero on the Celsius scale. Maintenance becomes easier with people like Jean Fluet around; admirers unconditionally call him "the best damned mechanic in the north."


SCHOOL BUS
410

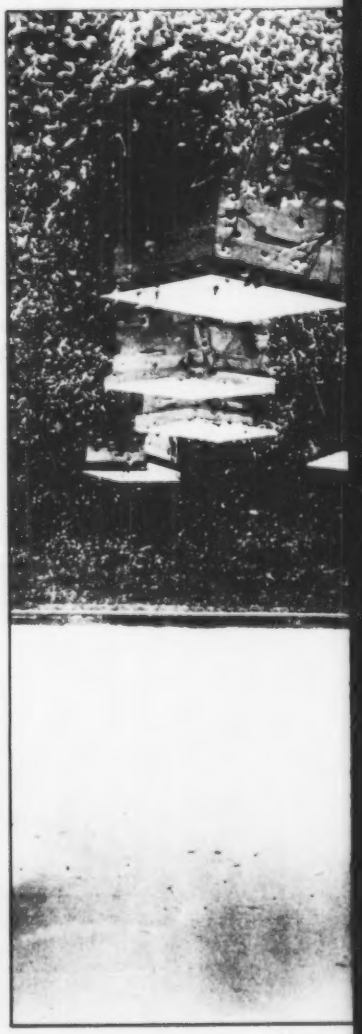
white fox

It doesn't operate with mammoth machines and frenetic production schedules, but beekeeping is still a thriving industry in Saskatchewan. About 8-1/2 million pounds of honey were harvested in 1976 alone by the province's 1,000 beekeepers.

One of Saskatchewan's honey-producing companies is Mohr Apiaries of White Fox, a village of 350 people. Harry Mohr, who has worked with bees for 20 years, owns and manages the company with his son Don. Like most beekeepers (or apiarists, as they're called in the trade), Harry has a special kind of dedication to his business. "I like working with something that's alive and productive, and you can't find anything more alive and more productive than a bee." Harry set up Mohr Apiaries in 1968, and the company employs about six full-time people during the busy harvesting season.

Mohr's bees are sent in from California in a package containing one queen bee and two pounds of worker bees. The queen can lay up to 2,000 eggs in a day, quickly producing more bees. Mohr's bees are placed in bee yards (approximately 40 hives in a group), in neighboring clover fields. As the bees get to be about two or three weeks old, they begin to gather honey and pollen from the nearby clover fields or other flowering plants, and "pass" it on to another bee in the hive for storage. The accumulated honey is removed periodically by Mohr workers and stored in barrels for shipment. The bulk of honey produced is sold wholesale to a B.C. plant, while a small amount is sold at local retail stores.

The photographs show (right), bees swarming in the air as their hives are transported from the bee yard to the plant where honey will be extracted; Lane Barks inspecting hive activity (center); and Don Mohr (far right), holding a honey-laden frame, which is part of the hive.



claybank

High quality clays in the Claybank area led to the establishment 65 years ago of a local plant to manufacture refractory bricks.

The plant has been in Claybank ever since. It is run today by A. P. Green Refractories (Canada) Ltd., and is staffed by 24 experienced personnel. The company produces a wide range of refractory bricks for a Canada-wide market. (Refractory bricks can withstand intense heat and severe conditions, and are used in fireplaces, steel furnaces and boilers.)

A. P. Green's main products are fire brick, fire brick in special shapes and fire brick tile. A large demand for the products comes from Western Canada, but the company actually ships more to the east because of its larger industrial markets.

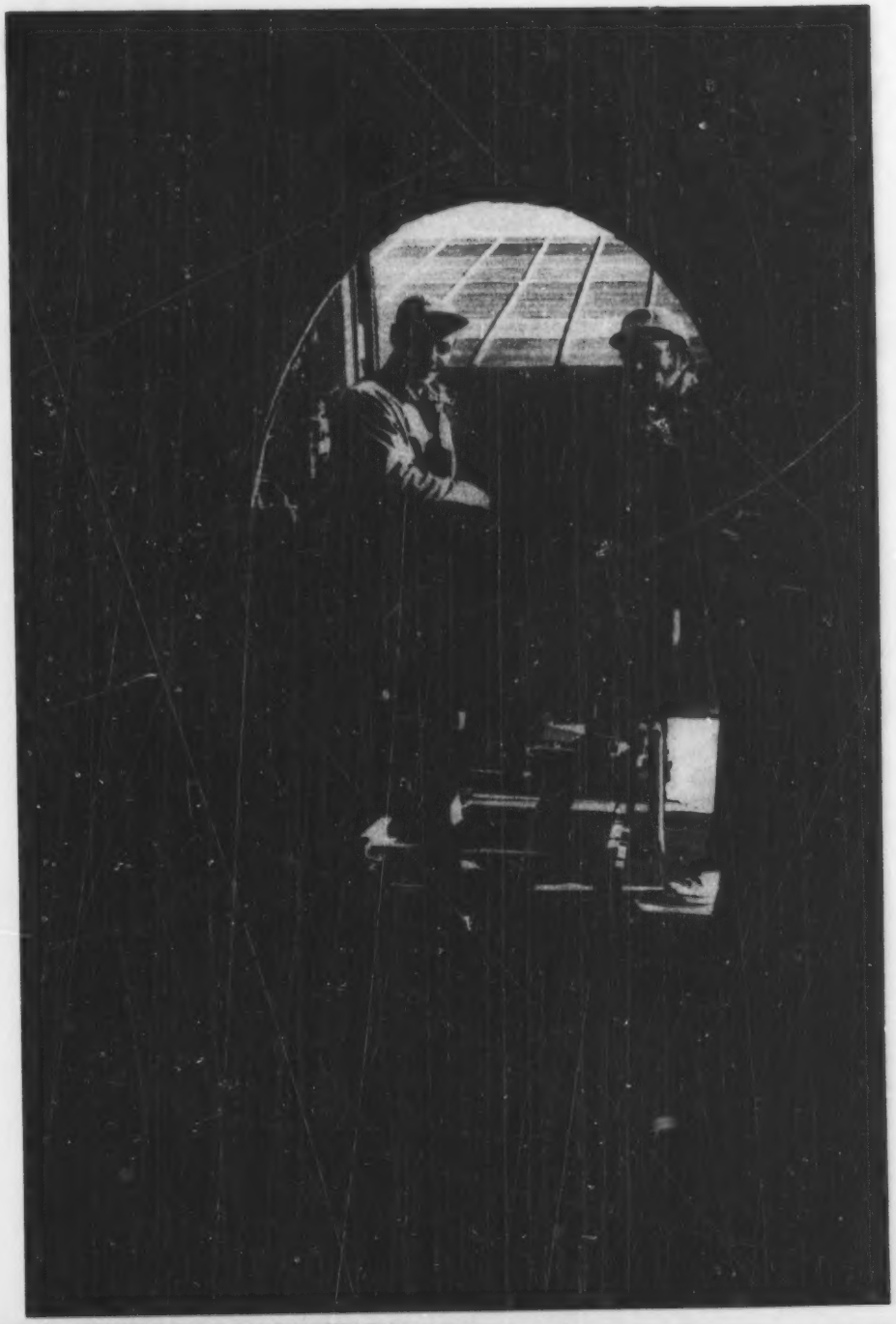
The bricks are made of a mix of ground clay and crushed brick. They are pressed into shape, air dried, and then set in kilns for firing at temperatures up to 2500° F. The fired bricks are palletized, "shrink-wrapped," loaded onto box cars and trucks, and shipped to markets.

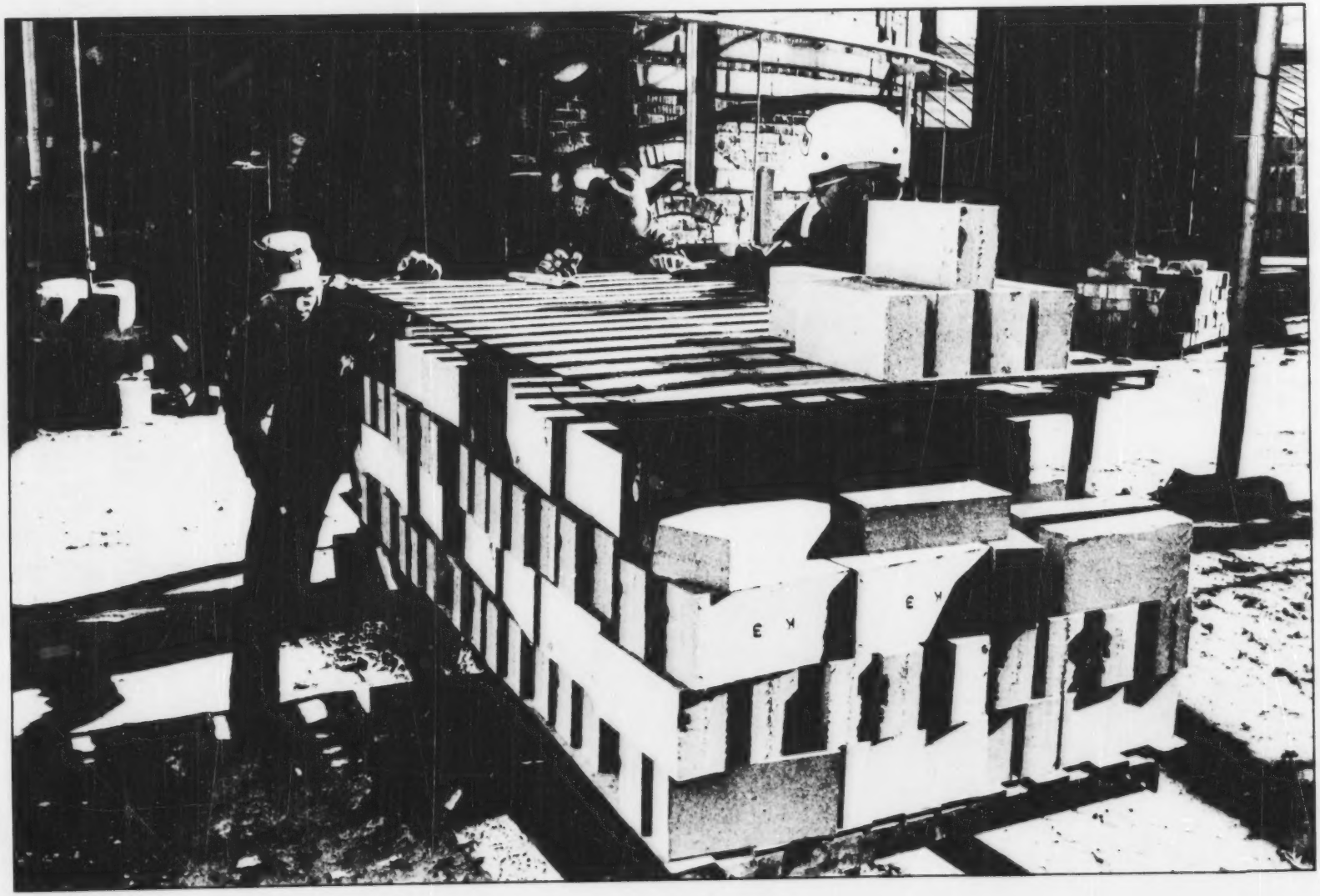
Walter Harlos, (left) and Wilfred Harlos are shown at the entrance to a kiln. In the other photo, Everett Lee (left), Elmer Ziola (center), and James Clarke, general superintendent, are transporting green bricks to be fired.

The plant has six kilns, each of which holds 50,000 bricks. Production for each kiln is 200,000 bricks per month. Facilities at the plant are flexible enough to be adapted to the production of refractory shapes to suit the customer's own specifications.

The availability of high-grade clays locally is the main reason the plant was located at Claybank. Other grades of fire clay are brought in to assure top quality materials from which to produce a wide range of refractory products.

The company has just finished exploring for additional clay deposits in the local area. Deposits for another ten years were located, ensuring a good future for the plant.





esterhazy

Esterhazy is probably the only prairie community of its size (3,100 people) with a recording studio, one so complete it handles everything from down-home country to high-voltage rock.

Collienwood Recording Studios Ltd. records original music, has it pressed (usually in Eastern Canada), designs its own album covers and distributes its own records. The company also provides backup music for radio and television commercials and motion pictures.

The three men who run Collienwood as partners/directors are at home on both sides of the microphone. They are professional studio technicians as well as professional musicians.

Jack Clements (in the middle, center photo), Collienwood's founder and president, was born and raised in Esterhazy, and is an accomplished organist. Bruce Meszaros (on the right, center photo), the company's studio manager and engineer, was brought up in Esterhazy, and is a drummer. Murray Zimmer (immediate right, and standing, left, in group photo), also a drummer, is a Grayson native who serves as the company's assistant engineer.

"The business keeps us pretty busy," says Jack Clements, "so I guess you could call us semi-retired musicians."

Collienwood started in 1972 as a two-track recording studio. Thirty albums and 14 singles later, the company has graduated to a four-track facility in Esterhazy and a working arrangement with an eight-track studio in Kalenden, B.C.

The multi-track music albums produced by Collienwood include such outstanding albums as *Prairie Grass, Prairie Sky* and *Your Brand of Country.* Singers of all stripes, including Regina folksinger Bob Evans (right), record at Esterhazy.

None of the three Collienwood partners plans on getting ulcers by setting a big city pace. "Music is not only a business, it's a lifestyle for all of us," says Bruce. "You don't have to carry a heavy volume to keep your head above water when you are located in a smaller community."

Recording Ltd.

biggar

Adaptability is one of the keys to the success of Univision Industries Ltd. in Biggar, a town of about 3,000 people.

Ken Esler started the company in 1968 as Ken's Service Ltd., which specialized in building tractor cabs in a single stall in a local garage. The operation soon moved to a vacated garage with three stalls. The product line was increased, the staff was expanded to four, and the name was changed to Univision in 1971.

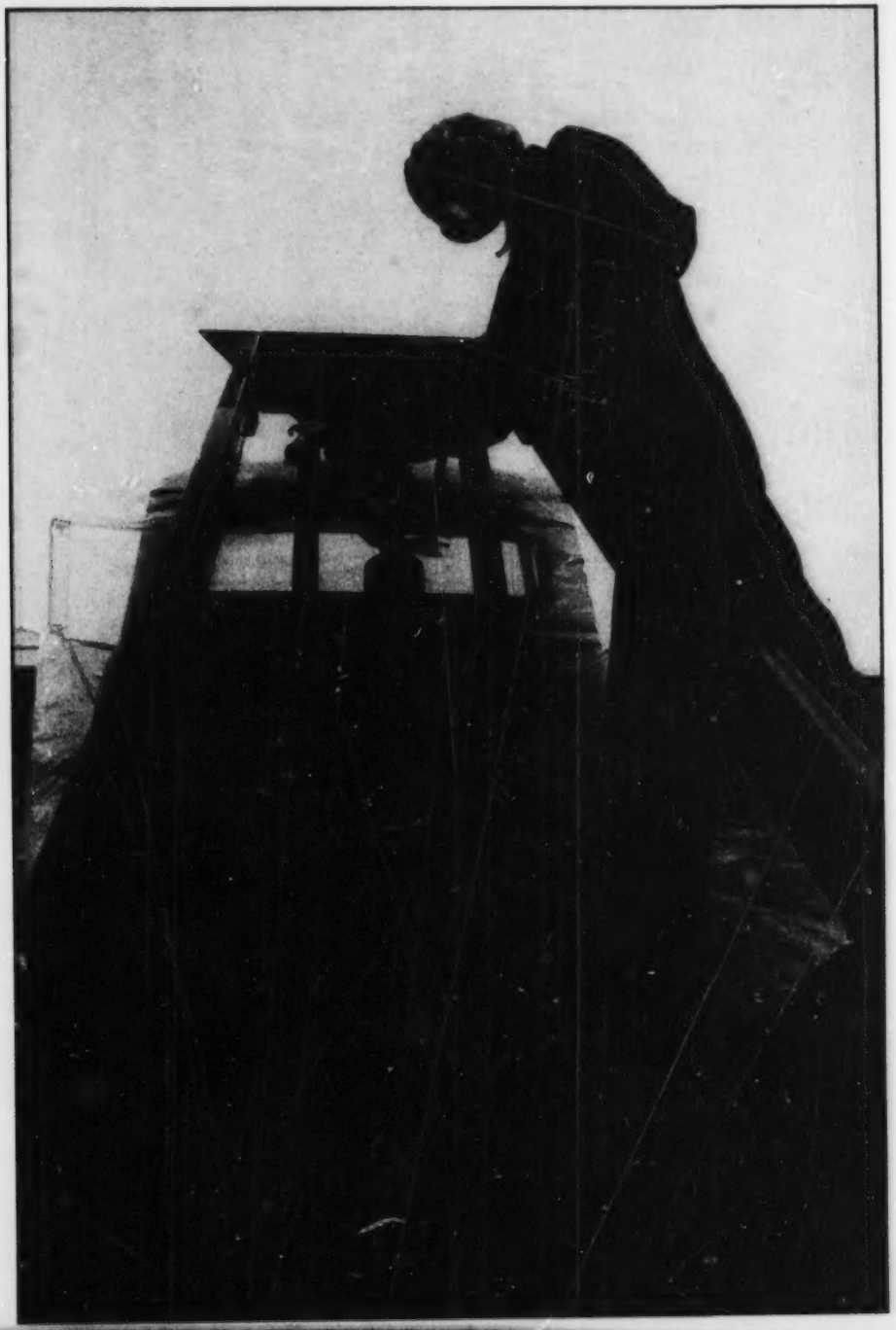
By 1973, the growing firm had moved into its present 18,000 square-foot shop, and had begun to attract a strong network of dealers both in and out of Saskatchewan.

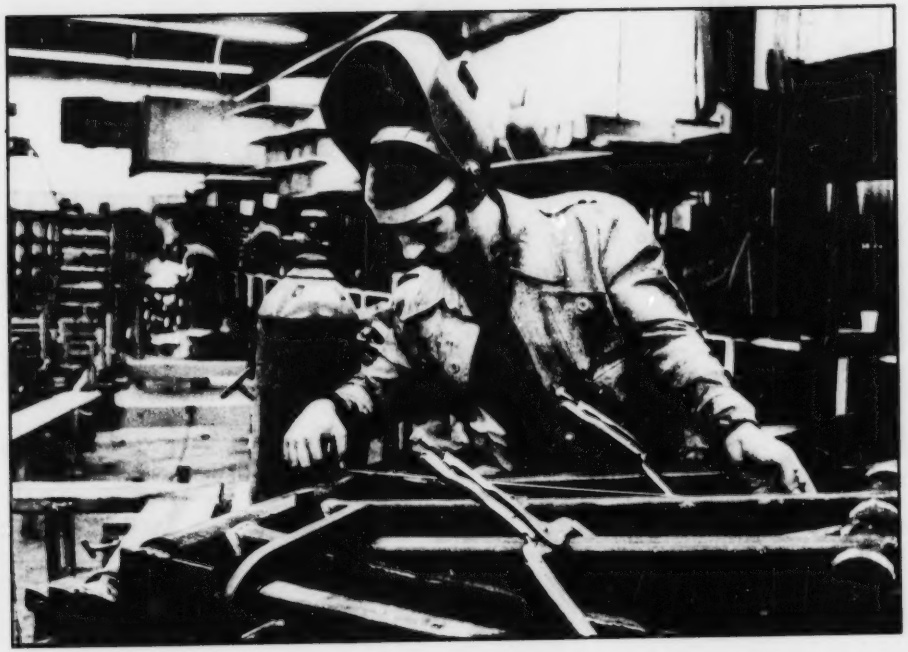
Today, Univision manufactures two and four-horse trailers, flatdecks, truck boxes and hoists, round and square bale wagons, and drill transports. About 33 dealers in the four western provinces now handle the company's entire line, except for the drill transport, which is sold through implement dealerships in Canada and the United States. Univision also has three full-time salesmen on the road.

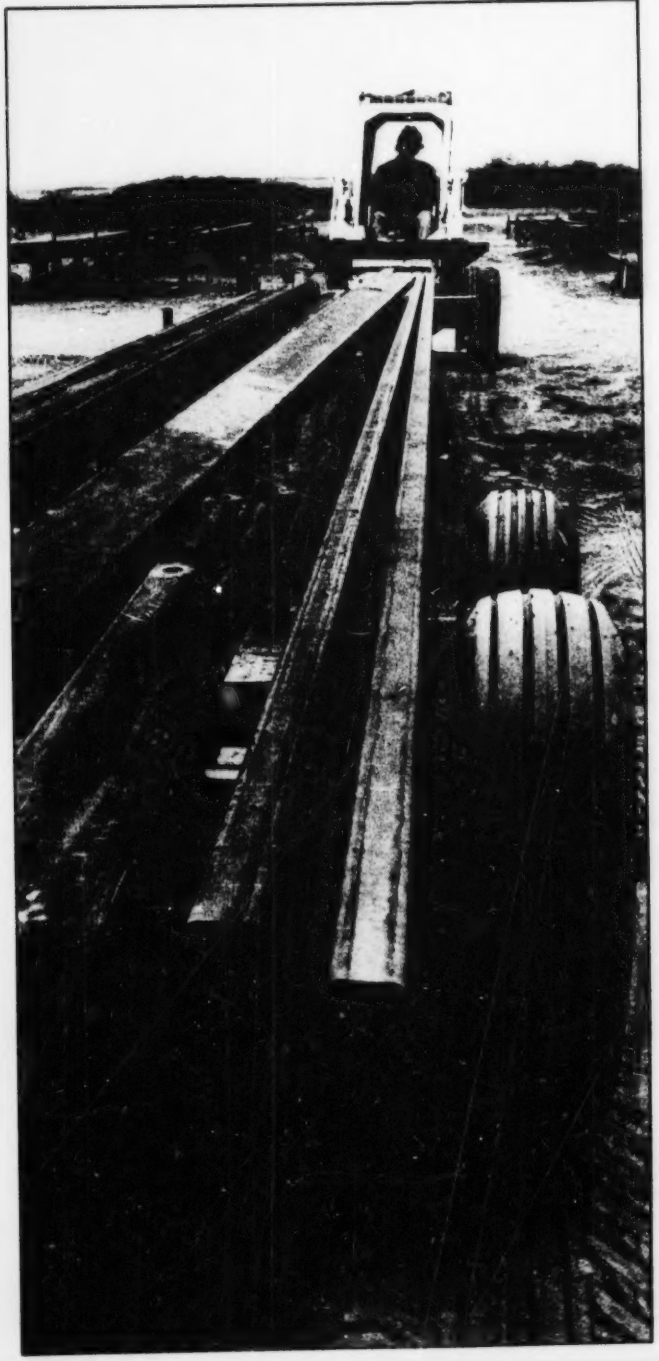
A strong demand has developed for Univision's horse trailers in particular, which are available in both goose neck and hitch types. Some of the deluxe trailers include living quarters and most any custom feature, such as stereo equipment.

The future looks good for Univision, which is one of the main employers in Biggar (45 full-time workers). "The overhead is lower in a smaller community," says Ken Esler, who was born and raised in Biggar. "You have more of a social life, a better community feeling. People who have worked here for three or four years wouldn't go back to a big city."

The photographs show Larry Robb spray painting a truck hoist (right); Gary Arsenault constructing a grain trailer hoist (center, top); Fred Hydomako (left) and Barry Custer, placing cross members onto a trailerdeck (center, bottom); and Don Little pushing trailer frames up to a conveyer.







moosomin

For many years, weekly newspapers have made an important contribution to community life in Saskatchewan. Almost everybody reads and appreciates them, and the province has more of them per capita (about 75) than any other province in Canada.

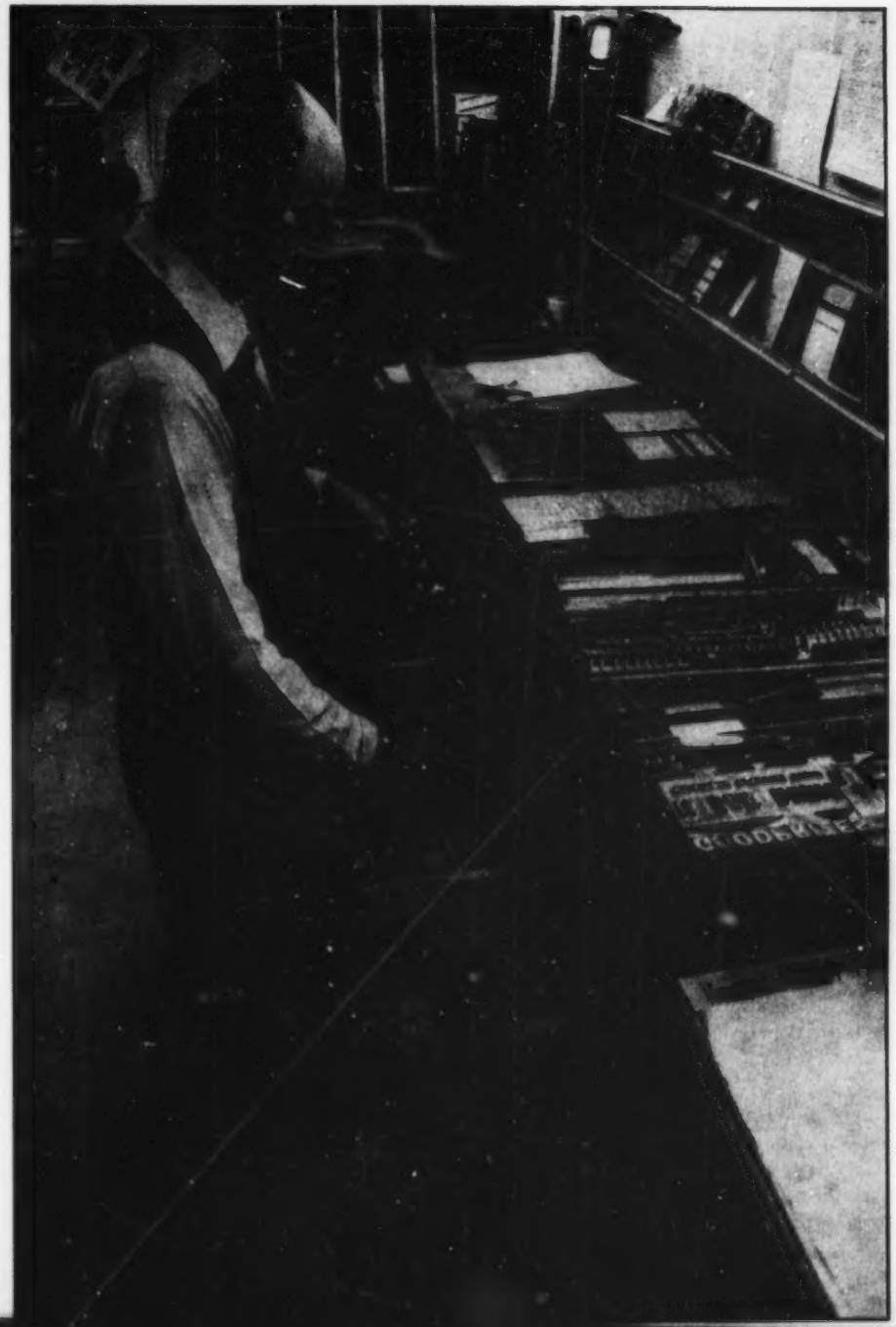
Given the intensity of interest, it's not surprising that Saskatchewan's oldest weekly newspaper is also one of the oldest and best-known weekly newspapers in Canada. The small, durable (and ambitiously-titled) Moosomin *World-Spectator* (circulation 3200), has been around for 93 years, and it's probably the only weekly still alive that covered the Riel Rebellion of 1885. The paper rose to the national emergency in those days by publishing daily.

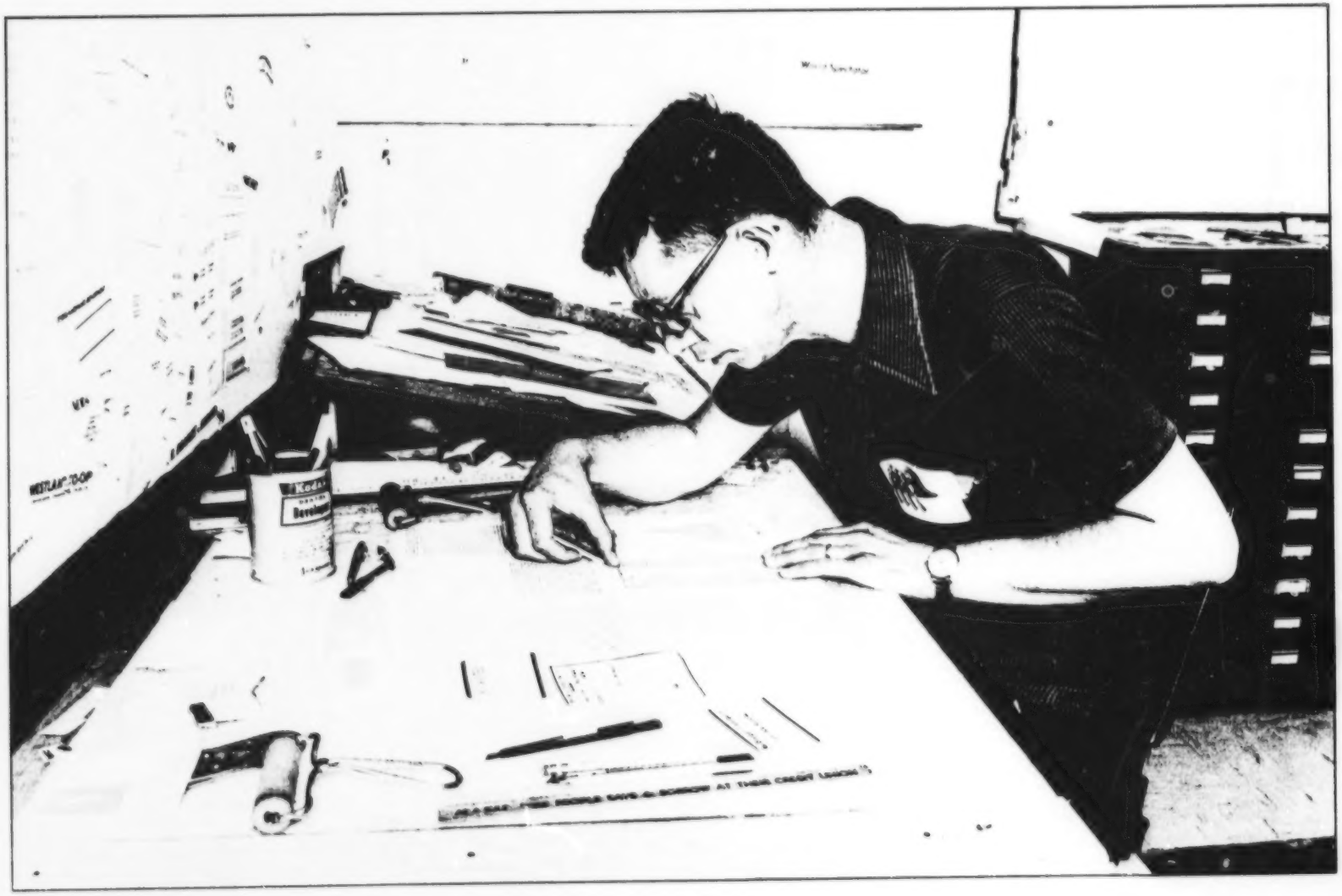
The first issue of *The World-Spectator*, then called *The Courier*, rolled off a hand press on October 2, 1884, scarcely a year after Moosomin itself was established. *The Courier* was the only newspaper for many miles, and carried news of such far-off exotic places as Calgary, MacLeod, Battleford, Moose Jaw, Edmonton and Pelly.

In the early 1890's, *The Courier* became the *The Spectator*, and competed with another Moosomin weekly, *The World*. Rivalry flourished between the two newspapers, each of which supported opposing political parties. During election campaigns, the Liberal *Spectator* conveniently avoided any mention of a Conservative candidate, and the Conservative *World* would return the oversight. The two papers finally amalgamated in 1910 into today's *World-Spectator*.

The paper was bought in 1972 by John Meen, the present editor and owner. He is only the fourth editor in 70 years. John, on the far right composing a page, first began working for *The World-Spectator* in 1949.

Printer Jim Feader has been with the Moosomin weekly since 1936. He still handles jobs that require "cold" typesetting (individual type characters set in a mold), as he demonstrates at right. Most newspapers — weekly or otherwise — have changed to the photo offset process. *The World-Spectator* switched to offset in 1969.





rocanville

The 850 people of Rocanville got together in 1973 to unveil a monument at the entrance to town. It didn't honor the fallen of past wars or mark a whistle stop by a foreign monarch. It was a monument of a pump oiler: a 28-foot high pump oiler. The unusual landmark honored Symons Metal Workers Ltd. and Ernie Symons, a potent one-two punch that has helped keep Rocanville economically healthy for more than 50 years.

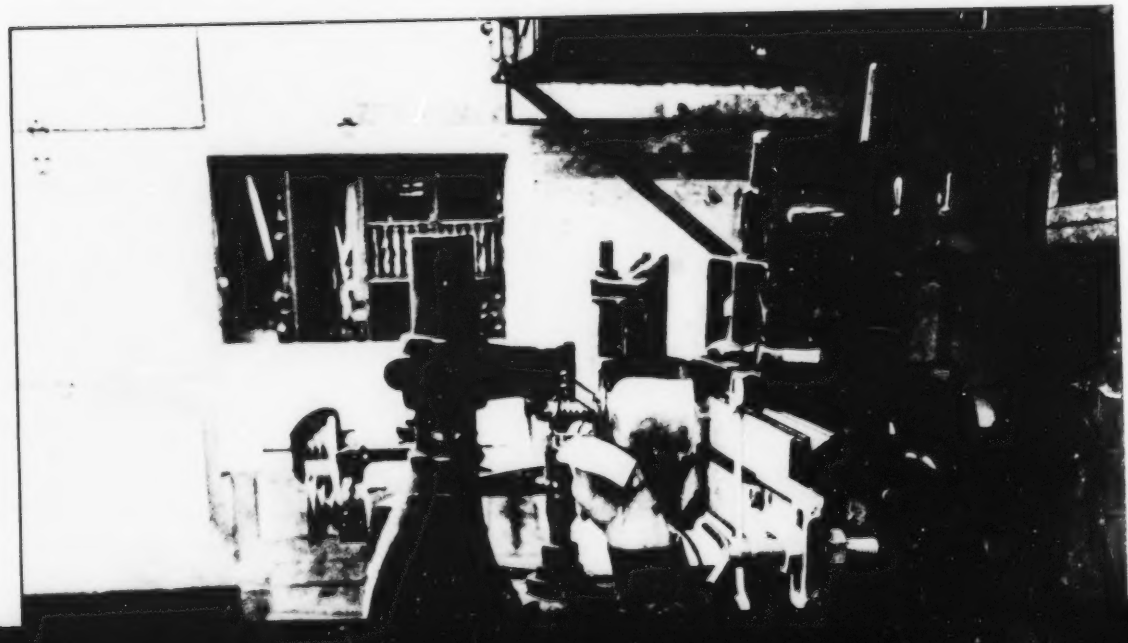
Ernie Symons (right, in both photos), is the founder and still president of Symons Metal Workers Ltd. His company is one of the best-known makers of oilers in Canada, so the monument at the edge of Rocanville is indeed appropriate.

Now 81 years old, Ernie's interests span industry to organic foods to rural living. He is unofficially semi-retired, but he still visits his shop periodically to turn his hand to the job he knows so well. In the left photo, he holds the first two pump oilers he made 53 years ago. In the other photo, he takes a turn on the drill press.

Ernie first started his business in 1923 at a Rocanville blacksmith shop. After hearing complaints from farmers about the pump oilers then on the market, he decided to build one himself that would work every time it was needed. He soon designed an oiler that would squirt 15 feet, and improved it by adding a moving spout attached to the plunger.

Unable to find a manufacturer willing to produce the oiler, Ernie went into production himself, with his father's financial help. His company produced two dozen oilers in 1924, 400 in the second year of operation, and 3500 in the third year. The top years for production came during the Second World War, when as many as 65,000 oilers were produced in one year by a peak of 32 employees. Most of the orders were government defence contracts.

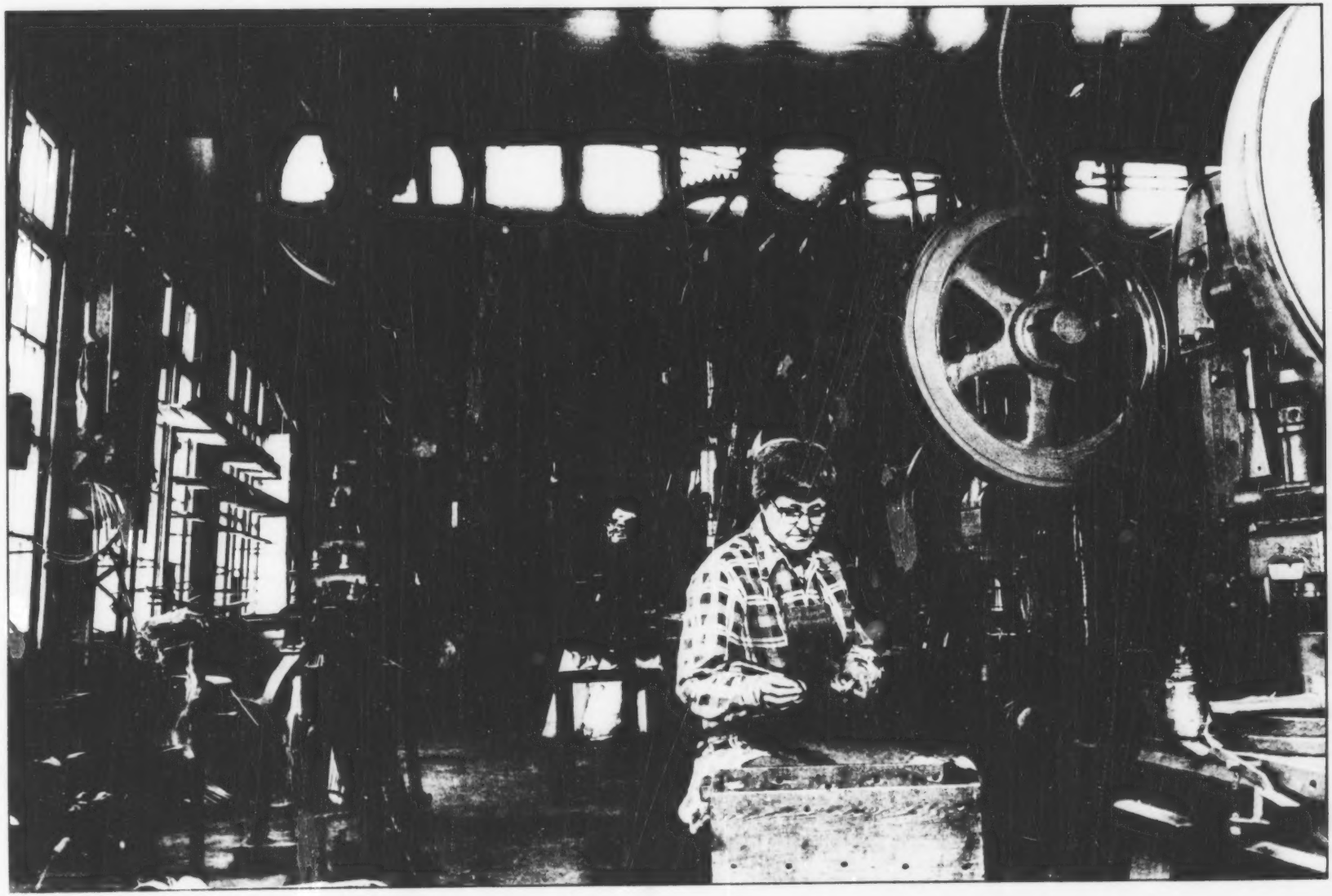
Ernie built his present shop in 1937 from raw poplar hauled directly to the site, sawn there and used as finished lumber to construct the building. Today, it is still a sturdy structure with a busy network of wheels, pulleys, work benches and a multitude of tools that are used in the day-to-day work process.



"Every part of our oilers, except the spring and ball, are made in the Rocanville factory," Ernie says. Four basic models are made today by his company in four different sizes of the same model. The markets for the oil cans are still nation-wide. About 20-30,000 cans are now produced each year by the Symons company, which today employs about a dozen people.

In addition to producing the oilers, Symons Metal Workers Ltd. also does specialized welding and machine work and has added such new product lines as front spindles and crank shaft spines. In the picture on the right, Narfi Vigfusson is getting ready to weld, while Muriel Ferguson (far right) is working on a press that punches caps for the pump oilers.

Ernie Symons' other interests include grinding and selling alfalfa, which he believes is a perfect health food; collecting stamps and pioneer photographs; and encouraging the preservation of the environment and wildlife. He believes the best life is in rural communities. "You couldn't pay me to live in a city," he says. "If I had to live in a city, I'd head for the bush."



redvers

The moccasin-making industry almost died in Redvers after Patricia Leather Products Ltd. moved to nearby Estevan in 1974. But Harvey and Henry George wanted to keep the industry — and the employment it provided — in that community of 900. The two brothers bought part of Patricia Leather, renamed it Redvers Leather, and they're facing a future that looks promising.

Redvers Leather Products now has eight full-time workers in a 4800 square-foot work and storage area. It also has created a cottage industry for three local people, who work out of their homes hand-lacing moccasins.

The company produces a variety of moccasin styles — all genuine full-grain cowhide — in a choice of eight colors. The footwear may be bought with either a crepe sole or a plain leather sole. Some are acrylic pile-lined, while others are unlined.

Redvers Leather works on an order basis from stores. Marketing is done through the Saskatchewan Trading Corporation, and sales representatives cover an area from Ontario to Victoria.

Redvers Leather produced more than 30,000 pairs of moccasins in 1976, up from 24,000 in 1975. The average daily company production is approximately 175 pairs, but the shop has produced more than 300 pairs, a record, on one day.

"It is an asset to be located in a smaller community," says Gerhart Andersen, shop foreman. "Taxes are lower here and life is more satisfying. I wouldn't know what to do with myself in a big city. Here, I go home and there's always something for the old man to do."

The photographs show Shirley Jensen marking sizes and stock numbers onto soles (right, top); Louise Tinant fitting moccasins onto lasts in preparation for heat treatment which shapes the footwear (right, bottom); and Lucie Poirier stitching backs of moccasins.

glaslyn

Glaslyn, a small community of 400 people about 40 miles north of the Battlefords, is the home of L&M Wood Products Ltd., a good example of Saskatchewan's fast-growing and important forest industry. (There are about 58,000 square miles of commercial forests in Saskatchewan. The sales value of the province's forest products leaped from $9.5 million in 1964-65 to $110.5 million in 1974-75.)

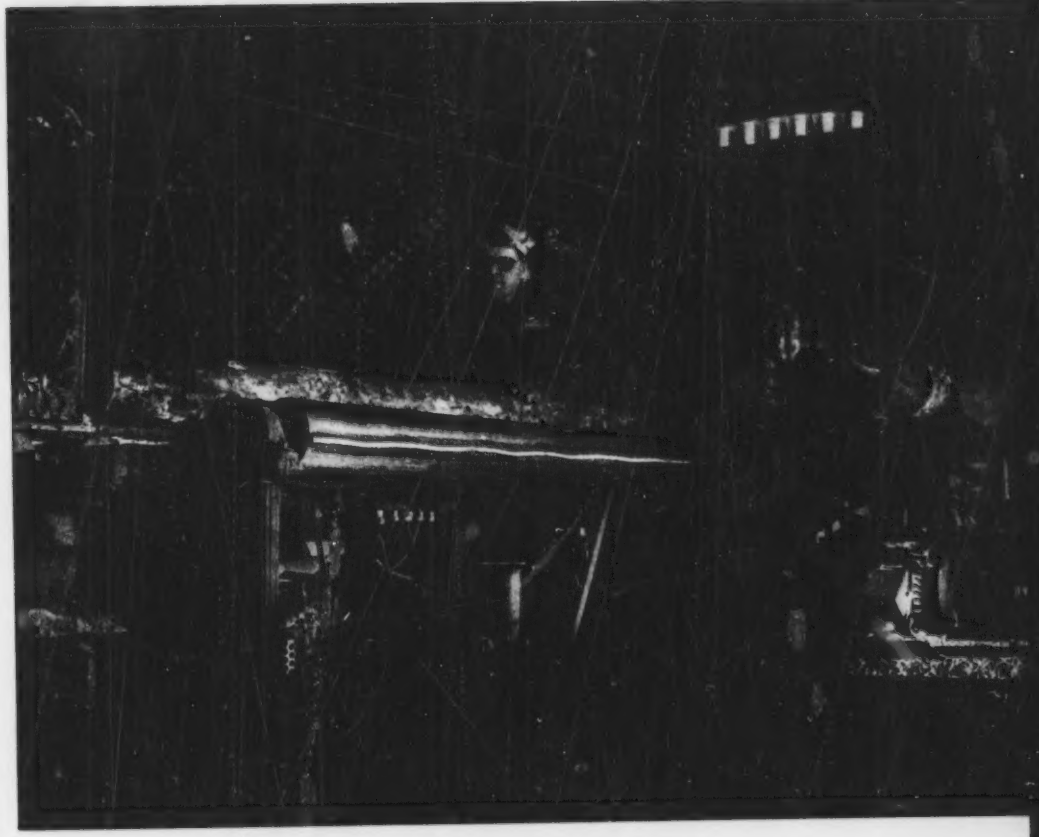
L&M Wood Products is one of the 10 largest forest product companies in Saskatchewan, and the largest employer (45 people) in Glaslyn. The firm was founded in 1960 by Alfred Lobe, his son Maurice, and Howard McConnell, all from the Glaslyn area. They sold their peeled wood to a wood-treating firm in Prince Albert for a few years, and then purchased a treating plant of their own in Glaslyn in 1964. The company hasn't looked back since.

L&M produces pressure-treated posts, along with ties, poles and rails, all from jackpine and white spruce. The wood is brought in from areas near Glaslyn and as far away as La Loche, 280 miles to the north. After the wood is processed, it may be shipped to various points in Canada and the U.S.

The 45 L&M employees work on various jobs: bucking up tree-length wood, sawing lumber, peeling posts and poles, treating posts, poles and lumber and loading the material onto trucks for shipment. Another 200 people are employed in the forests north of Glaslyn, and are responsible for cutting, skidding trees and hauling the material to the Glaslyn plant.

"The lumber market is increasing rapidly," says Ken Davies, office manager of L&M. "We could ship all the way to Argentina, but the demand at home exceeds anything that we can produce at the moment. In 1976, as an example, we were cutting an average of one million feet of lumber a month."

Ralph Ledinski is guiding logs through the saw in the photo at right. The center picture has Albert Getten (left) operating the peeler, and Rodney Funk (right) waiting for the peeled logs. The other photo shows an overview of the L&M Yard.



fort qu'appelle

Hansen-Ross Pottery in Fort Qu'Appelle is the story of a pioneering effort by two men to make handcrafted pottery a self-supporting and commercially viable venture in Saskatchewan.

The story begins with the late David Ross. After earning a masters degree from the Manitoba School of Fine Arts in 1954, David visited Sweden, Denmark and England for further experience and training. While in Denmark, he met Folmer Hansen, his future partner at Fort Qu'Appelle. David returned to Canada in 1956 and was engaged by the Saskatchewan Arts Board as resident potter and craft consultant. He made his headquarters in an old three-storey brick house in Fort Qu'Appelle that served as the arts board's craft center and shop. Then, in 1958, Folmer Hansen (far right photo) left Denmark to join David. From 1958 to 1960, they worked together at the craft center, teaching pottery and making pots, which they sold through the center.

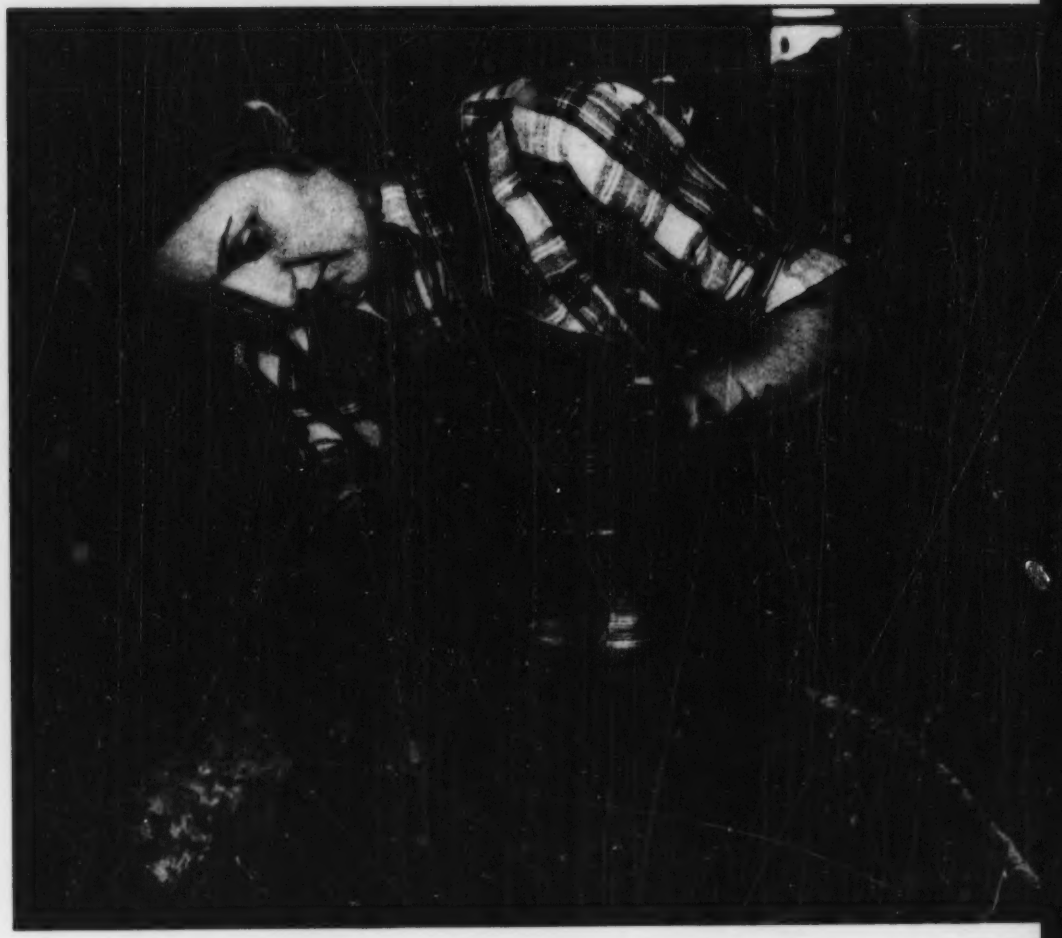
In 1960, the arts board decided to close the three-storey brick house-cum-craft center. David and Folmer purchased it and in April of 1961 opened Hansen-Ross Pottery.

By the mid-1960's, the two partners were deriving a full-time living from the sale of their crafts at their shop and at exhibitions in the U.S., Europe and Canada.

The business was doing well by 1974. Then, David Ross lost his life in an automobile accident.

David's death was a severe blow to Folmer, but he carried on the business, keeping the name of Hansen-Ross Pottery. In the summer of 1976, he was joined by Connie Talbot-Parker (at right, "throwing" a pot), and Don Parker, who live and work with him in the old brick house. All three are involved in throwing pots, decoration, glazing, loading and unloading of kilns. Between them, they use ten tons of clay each year.

Although he has had offers from craftshops across Canada to sell his work, Folmer does not want to compromise quality for quantity. "Pottery should be functional, but also beautiful to look at," he says.



Another important Fort Qu'Appelle handcraft industry — and tourist attraction — is the Southern Plains Handicraft Co-operative, which is one of Saskatchewan's leading producers of traditional, beautiful Indian crafts.

Southern Plains employs four full-time people who produce such leather-crafted goods as moccasins, mukluks, mitts, gloves, duffel coats, jackets, vests, belts and change purses.

A cottage industry has already grown from the busy home-base shop. About 10 women from the nearby Standing Buffalo Reserve are doing beadwork for leather fashions in their own homes. They are supplied regularly with pre-cut leathers to do their work.

Southern Plains' products are sold at the Fort Qu'Appelle shop, largely to tourists, and through the Saskatchewan Indian Arts and Crafts Corporation, which represents five Indian co-ops in Saskatchewan. The corporation solicits orders for the handcrafts from various department, specialty and gift stores across Canada and in other countries.

In the photos are Mabel Peigan (right), holding a finished moosehide moccasin; Alice Musqua (center, bottom), sizing moccasins while Mabel is beading; acting manager Florence Bigknife (center, top), tracing a moccasin pattern; and Katherine Desnomine (far right), cutting a pattern.

Southern Plains and Hanson-Ross Pottery represent a strong and growing handcraft industry in Saskatchewan today. There could be as many as 400 full and part-time handcraft companies, co-ops and individuals now producing crafts in the province.

tisdale

Egg trays and peat pots made partly from recycled newspapers are the products of a successful new industry in Tisdale.

Fibre Form Industries Ltd. constructed its new plant in Tisdale in 1975 and started production in January of 1976. It is a welcome addition to the Town of Tisdale (pop. 3000), and is one of the few companies in Canada recycling waste materials into useful products.

Three shifts of workers keep the plant operating 24 hours a day, five days a week. The plant operates in three-month cycles, producing egg cartons for three months and peat pots the next three months. The products are marketed in Western Canada and various parts of the U.S.

Fibre Form's egg trays are made from 10 to 15 per cent cardboard combined with scrap newsprint and a mixture of water, wax and resin. In successive steps, this mixture is blended in a pulper, refined and then molded into flat trays, each of which will hold 30 eggs. The trays are purchased by egg producers, who use them for storage and shipping.

In the photos are Pearl Butrick (top, right), taking egg trays from the dryer; Sid Blow (bottom, right), loading scrap paper, which is then dumped into the pulper; Brian Minhinnick (left) and Jerry Mattinson (both in large photo, right), pouring wax into egg tray slurry.

The peat pots are made from peat combined with lesser portions of cardboard, scrap newsprint and fertilizer. The pots are used for plants which may be planted — pot and all — in the ground. The pot decomposes over a period of time.

The scrap paper used by Fibre Form is brought in from Saskatoon and Winnipeg. The Saskatoon paper is collected by Cosmos Industries Ltd., which employs handicapped people to gather the paper and ship it to Tisdale.

Fibre Form Industries is owned by John Emery Consultants Ltd. of Toronto, Asphalt Services Ltd. of Saskatoon and the Saskatchewan Economic Development Corporation (SEDCO). Financing for capital construction was also approved by SEDCO.

watson

When Fred Breker of Englefeld decided to sell his church pew business eight years ago, he didn't go far to find a buyer: only to Watson, barely five miles away. Four of Watson's 800 people were the brothers Schmid — Leo, Dave, Gerald and Daniel — who had been building kitchen cabinets and houses since 1960.

The four Schmids bought Breker's business in early 1967 and located a suitable site for the new venture on the outskirts of Watson. They quickly equipped their shop, and the Schmid Industries we know today was in business.

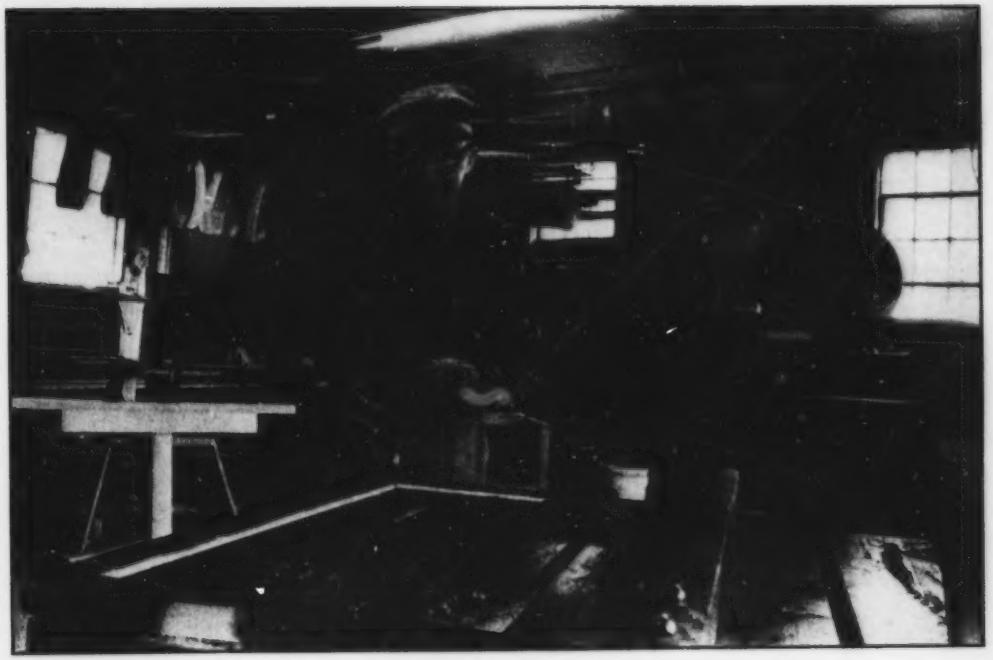
For the first six months of operation, the Schmids continued to manufacture church pews while scouting for newer, bigger markets for the business. By the latter part of 1969, Leo's three brothers, while remaining as partners, sought other interests, and Leo Schmid was left to manage the business. Since then, he has expanded his shop to its present 4500 square feet, and has taken on a full-time staff of about 10 people. Today, the company still produces church pews, but makes a variety of other wood-products — from custom kitchen cupboards to rocking chairs.

"I've never done anything else, except farming," says Leo. "But that was only during the summer, when I was younger. Otherwise, woodworking has been my life."

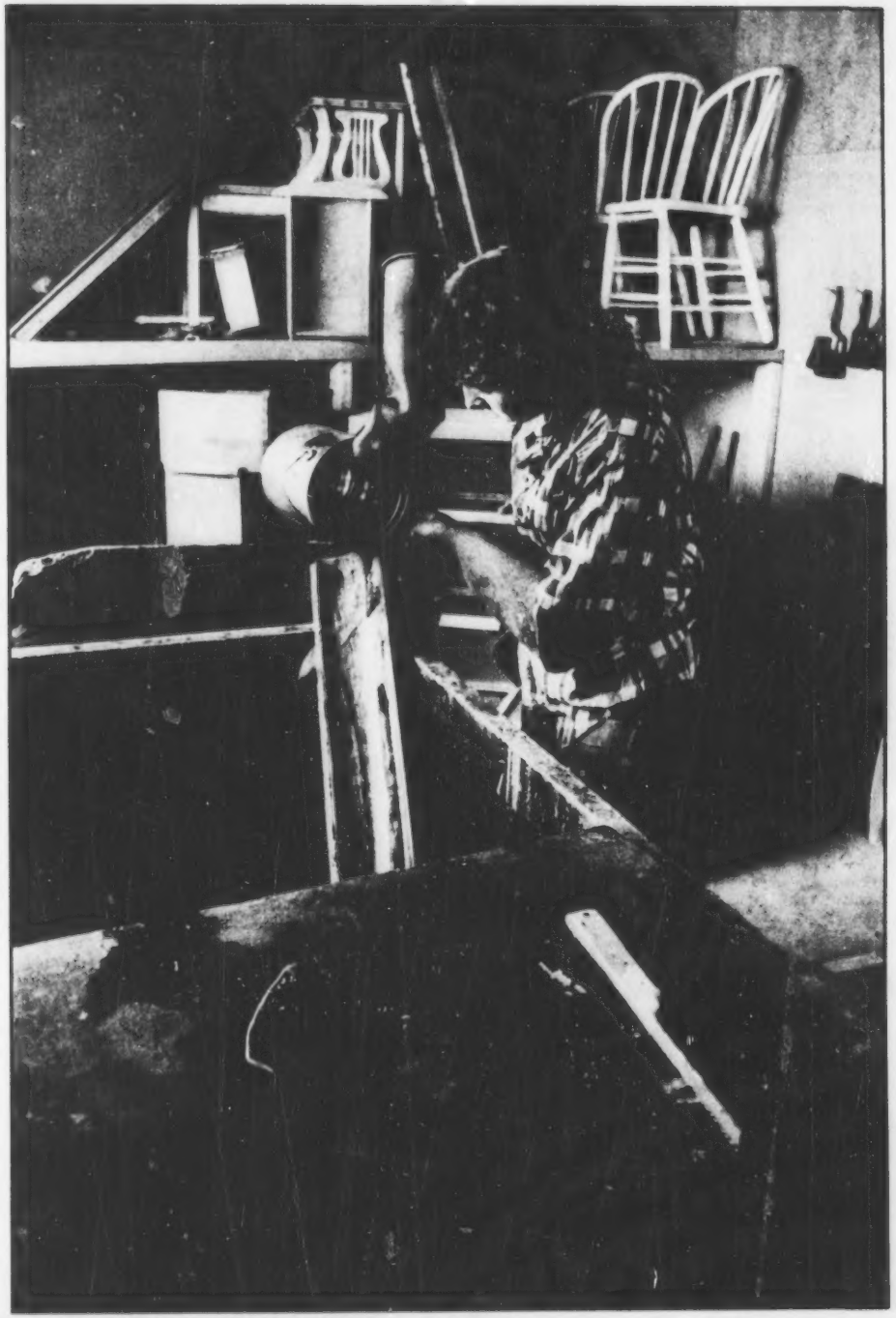
Joe Knafelc (both photos, right), Leo's uncle, has worked in the shop for five years since retiring from farming. He shares his nephew's appreciation of woodcraft, and the pride in his work is like a company trademark, particularly when he can point to a church he has done work for. In the photographs, Joe is constructing a window frame at the table saw and radial arm saw.

Leo Schmid says his company has seen an increasing, rather than decreasing, demand for his church pew orders. "The economy went up in Saskatchewan the past two years," he says, "and a lot of new churches are just being finished now." He has orders booked for three months in advance.

Schmid's church pews have been shipped as far away as Banff, Winnipeg and the Yukon. They are either custom-made to match a church design or can be chosen from the 20 patterns available. Generally, oak is used in building the pews.



DE WALT



With antiques growing in popularity, the refinishing and repairing of older furniture has gained a greater share of Schmid's business. To refinish antiques, employees dip the furniture in a tank containing three strong chemicals that are used to loosen the paint. The paint is then scraped away and the refinishing process can begin. Joyce Kastello (right) is wearing protective gloves while stripping old varnish from a part of a buffet. At far right, Mary Jane Boyko is dismantling an 1896 piano for refinishing.

Worn and weathered furniture undergoes a transformation at Schmid Industries. Table tops once cracked and gouged become smooth wood finishes, broken doors in buffets are replaced, and new spindles — carefully matching the original design — are turned for broken chairs.

Meticulous craftsmanship and devotion to detail keep Schmid Industries a busy place: so busy, in fact, that the company hasn't had to launch a mass advertising campaign. Its reputation has spread by word-of-mouth alone.

la ronge

Saskatchewan has a strong, well-organized fresh water commercial fishing industry that includes about 1,600 fishermen and 17 co-operatives. The largest is La Ronge's Co-op Fisheries plant, which was established in 1959. The plant employs 35 people at peak periods in summer and about 15 during the ice-fishing season in winter. During the course of a good year, about two million pounds of fish are processed, packaged and shipped by the co-op.

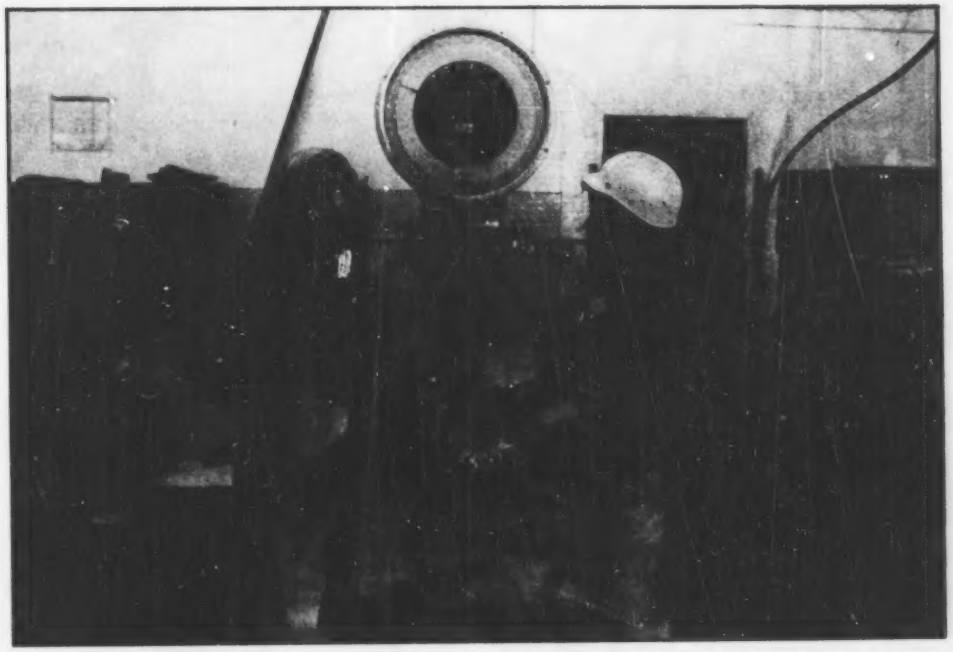
Whitefish, trout, northern pike and pickerel are the main species of fish handled and processed by the plant. Some of the finished fish is sold in the province, but most is transformed into frozen fillets, packed in 75-pound bulk crates and shipped to the Fresh Water Fish Corporation of Winnipeg, where it is graded, glazed with ice and re-packaged into various sizes. The corporation markets and distributes the fish throughout North America and in many overseas countries.

Co-op Fisheries also produces gefilte fish, usually a mixture of whitefish and pike that is served in the form of "fish balls' as Jewish kosher food. A rabbi is on duty at the La Ronge plant to oversee the process.

More than 3,000 people live in and near La Ronge, and the co-op plant is an important asset for the economic well-being of the area. It not only employs people directly in the plant, but also provides employment for others in the north.

More than 30 independent fishermen from La Ronge and others from such communities as Ile-a-la-Crosse and Pelican Narrows are responsible for delivering fish to the plant regularly. The money they earn from the fishing industry is mainly spent and invested at the local level, providing a further benefit to their respective communities.

The photographs show the movement of the fish through the La Ronge Co-op. At immediate right (top), Martial McKenzie (left) and Phillip Halkett are weighing and packing incoming white fish; Nora Sanderson is on the filleting line (bottom, immediate right); Walter Ferland is displaying a tray of tullibees (center); and Anna Sanderson is packaging fish for local sales.



kindersley

Beline Manufacturing Co. Ltd. of Kindersley began in 1964 by manufactuing culvert and hazard markers and such other products as hydraulically-operated post hole augers, tow bars for trucks, and specialized truck equipment.

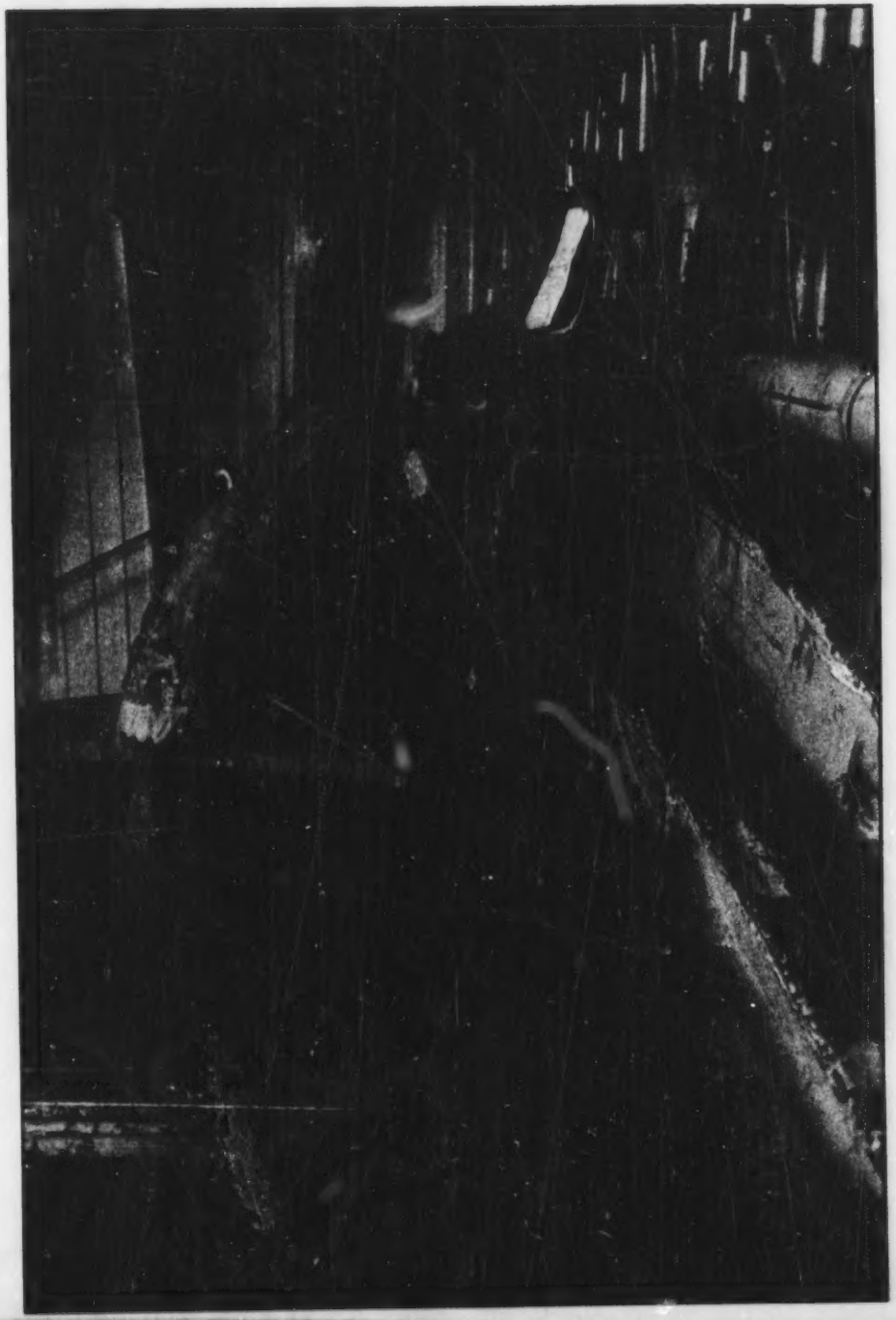
Over the years, the company moved into larger products, making truck boxes and hoists, front end loaders for imported tractors, and auxiliary fuel tanks for tractors. By 1973, it had moved into its current 10,000 square-foot shop on 6.4 acres of land. There are now 24 full-time Beline employees in Kindersley, a growing community of more than 3,000 people.

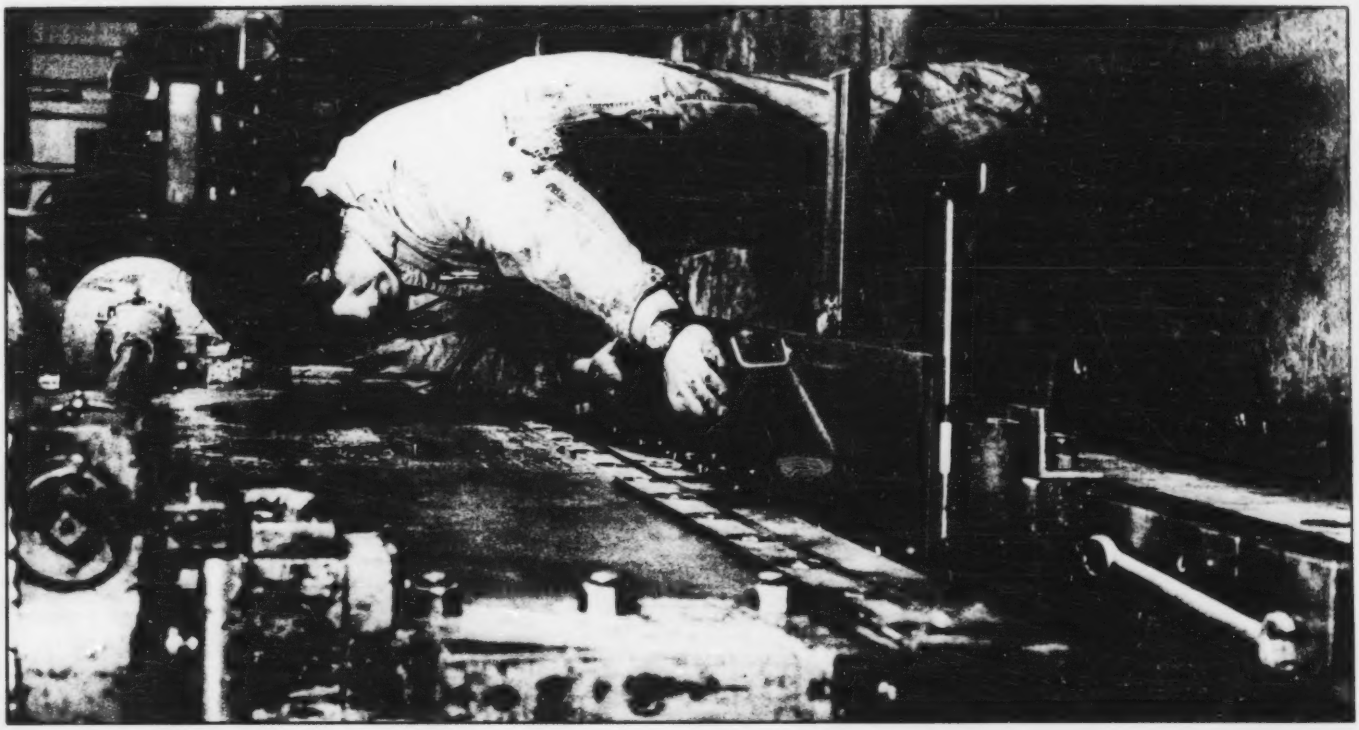
The company's newest product is a granular herbicide applicator, which was developed about two years ago as an alternative to the equipment then on the market. The applicator was designed by Beline owner-manager John Bourne, and the first machine was made in 1975. After a testing and re-design period, Beline began producing the applicator. Twenty of the new machines were sold in the spring of 1976, with very favorable results.

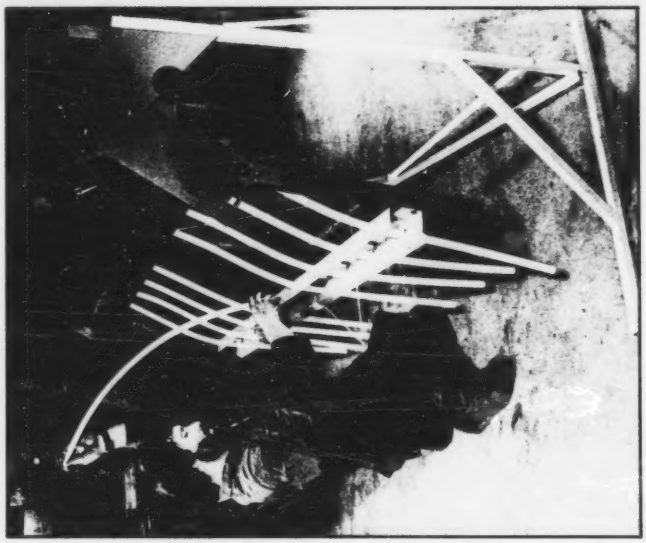
Full production of the applicator began last summer, and the Saskatchewan Wheat Pool is now marketing the machine. "It is by far the most sophisticated product that we produce," John Bourne says. "It's a space-age type of control in farm machinery."

Market areas for Beline's products include Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, with limited sales in some American states for the culvert markers. The company is continually working to expand its market area, and is planning to get better western Canadian and more northern U.S. coverage.

The photographs show Richard Bitz operating the shear (right); Barry Fahn assembling hoses and collectors on the herbicide applicator (center, top); Jim Close calibrating the applicator control box (center, bottom); and Ron Ackerman (far right), operating a pressbrake.







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Right: Construction workers at Outlook.